

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
[TRULY AGREED TO AND FINALLY PASSED]
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 1453
92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2427L.15T

2004

AN ACT

To repeal sections 26.740, 43.503, 43.530, 43.540, 135.327, 167.020, 192.016, 207.050, 207.060, 210.025, 210.102, 210.109, 210.110, 210.145, 210.150, 210.152, 210.153, 210.160, 210.183, 210.201, 210.211, 210.518, 210.565, 210.760, 210.903, 210.909, 211.031, 211.032, 211.059, 211.171, 211.181, 211.321, 302.272, 431.056, 452.375, 452.400, 452.402, 452.423, 452.455, 453.020, 453.025, 453.030, 453.060, 453.110, 475.024, 487.100, 491.075, 492.304, 537.046, and 701.336, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof seventy-nine new sections relating to foster care and protection of children, with penalty provisions and an emergency clause for certain sections.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 26.740, 43.503, 43.530, 43.540, 135.327, 167.020, 192.016, 207.050, 207.060, 210.025, 210.102, 210.109, 210.110, 210.145, 210.150, 210.152, 210.153, 210.160, 210.183, 210.201, 210.211, 210.518, 210.565, 210.760, 210.903, 210.909, 211.031, 211.032, 211.059, 211.171, 211.181, 211.321, 302.272, 431.056, 452.375, 452.400, 452.402, 452.423, 452.455, 453.020, 453.025, 453.030, 453.060, 453.110, 475.024, 487.100, 491.075, 492.304, 537.046, and 701.336, RSMo, are repealed and seventy-nine new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 37.699, 37.700, 37.705, 37.710, 37.715, 37.725, 37.730, 43.503, 43.530, 43.540, 135.327, 167.020, 168.283, 191.748, 192.016, 207.050, 207.060,

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law. Matter in boldface type in the above law is proposed language.

9 207.085, 208.647, 210.025, 210.102, 210.108, 210.109, 210.110, 210.111, 210.112, 210.113,
10 210.117, 210.127, 210.145, 210.147, 210.150, 210.152, 210.153, 210.160, 210.183, 210.187,
11 210.188, 210.201, 210.211, 210.482, 210.487, 210.518, 210.535, 210.542, 210.565, 210.760,
12 210.762, 210.903, 210.909, 211.031, 211.032, 211.038, 211.059, 211.171, 211.181, 211.319,
13 211.321, 302.272, 431.056, 452.375, 452.400, 452.402, 452.423, 452.455, 453.020, 453.025,
14 453.030, 453.060, 453.061, 453.110, 475.024, 487.100, 491.075, 492.304, 537.046, 701.336, 1,
15 and 2, to read as follows:

**37.699. Sections 37.700 to 37.730, 168.283, 191.748, 207.085, 210.109, 210.110,
2 210.111, 210.112, 210.113, 210.127, 210.145, 210.147, 210.150, 210.152, 210.153, 210.160,
3 210.183, 210.187, 210.188, 210.482, 210.487, 210.518, 210.535, 210.542, 210.565, 210.760,
4 210.762, 211.031, 211.032, 211.059, 211.319, and 537.046, RSMo, shall be known and may
5 be cited as the "Dominic James Memorial Foster Care Reform Act of 2004".**

37.700. As used in sections 37.700 to 37.730, the following terms mean:

2 **(1) "Office", the office of the child advocate for children's protection and services**
3 **within the office of administration, which shall include the child advocate and staff;**

4 **(2) "Recipient", any child who is receiving child welfare services from the**
5 **department of social services or its contractors, or services from the department of mental**
6 **health.**

37.705. 1. There is hereby established within the office of administration the
2 **"Office of Child Advocate for Children's Protection and Services", for the purpose of**
3 **assuring that children receive adequate protection and care from services, programs**
4 **offered by the department of social services, or the department of mental health, or the**
5 **juvenile court. The child advocate shall report directly to the commissioner of the office**
6 **of administration.**

7 **2. The office shall be administered by the child advocate, who shall be appointed**
8 **jointly by the governor and the chief justice of the Missouri supreme court with the advice**
9 **and consent of the senate. The child advocate shall hold office for a term of six years and**
10 **shall continue to hold office until a successor has been duly appointed. The advocate shall**
11 **act independently of the department of social services, the department of mental health,**
12 **and the juvenile court in the performance of his or her duties. The office of administration**
13 **shall provide administrative support and staff as deemed necessary.**

37.710. 1. The office shall have access to the following information:

2 **(1) The names and physical location of all children in protective services, treatment,**
3 **or other programs under the jurisdiction of the children's division, the department of**
4 **mental health, and the juvenile court;**

5 **(2) All written reports of child abuse and neglect; and**

6 **(3) All current records required to be maintained pursuant to chapters 210 and**
7 **211, RSMo.**

8 **2. The office shall have the authority:**

9 **(1) To communicate privately by any means possible with any child under**
10 **protective services and anyone working with the child, including the family, relatives,**
11 **courts, employees of the department of social services and the department of mental health,**
12 **and other persons or entities providing treatment and services;**

13 **(2) To have access, including the right to inspect, copy and subpoena records held**
14 **by the clerk of the juvenile or family court, juvenile officers, law enforcement agencies,**
15 **institutions, public or private, and other agencies, or persons with whom a particular child**
16 **has been either voluntarily or otherwise placed for care, or has received treatment within**
17 **this state or in another state;**

18 **(3) To work in conjunction with juvenile officers and guardians ad litem;**

19 **(4) To file amicus curiae briefs on behalf of the interests of the parent or child;**

20 **(5) To initiate meetings with the department of social services, the department of**
21 **mental health, the juvenile court, and juvenile officers;**

22 **(6) To take whatever steps are appropriate to see that persons are made aware of**
23 **the services of the child advocate's office, its purpose, and how it can be contacted;**

24 **(7) To apply for and accept grants, gifts, and bequests of funds from other states,**
25 **federal, and interstate agencies, and independent authorities, private firms, individuals,**
26 **and foundations to carry out his or her duties and responsibilities. The funds shall be**
27 **deposited in a dedicated account established within the office to permit moneys to be**
28 **expended in accordance with the provisions of the grant or bequest; and**

29 **(8) Subject to appropriation, to establish as needed local panels on a regional or**
30 **county basis to adequately and efficiently carry out the functions and duties of the office,**
31 **and address complaints in a timely manner.**

32 **3. For any information obtained from a state agency or entity under sections 37.700**
33 **to 37.730, the office of child advocate shall be subject to the same disclosure restrictions**
34 **and confidentiality requirements that apply to the state agency or entity providing such**
35 **information to the office of child advocate. For information obtained directly by the office**
36 **of child advocate under sections 37.700 to 37.730, the office of child advocate shall be**
37 **subject to the same disclosure restrictions and confidentiality requirements that apply to**
38 **the children's division regarding information obtained during an child abuse and neglect**
39 **investigation resulting in an unsubstantiated report.**

37.715. 1. The office shall establish and implement procedures for receiving,
2 **processing, responding to, and resolving complaints made by or on behalf of children who**

3 are recipients of the services of the departments of social services and mental health, and
4 the juvenile court. Such procedures shall address complaints relating to the actions,
5 inactions, or decisions of providers or their representatives, public or private child welfare
6 agencies, social service agencies, or the courts which may adversely affect the health, safety,
7 welfare, or rights of such recipient.

8 2. The office shall establish and implement procedures for the handling and,
9 whenever possible, the resolution of complaints.

10 3. The office shall have the authority to make the necessary inquiries and review
11 relevant information and records as the office deems necessary.

12 4. The office may recommend to any state or local agency changes in the rules
13 adopted or proposed by such state or local agency which adversely affect or may adversely
14 affect the health, safety, welfare, or civil or human rights of any recipient. The office shall
15 make recommendations on changes to any current policies and procedures. The office shall
16 analyze and monitor the development and implementation of federal, state and local laws,
17 regulations and policies with respect to services in the state and shall recommend to the
18 department, courts, general assembly, and governor changes in such laws, regulations and
19 policies deemed by the office to be appropriate.

20 5. The office shall inform recipients, their guardians or their families of their rights
21 and entitlements under state and federal laws and regulations through the distribution of
22 educational materials.

23 6. The office shall annually submit to the governor, the general assembly, and the
24 Missouri supreme court a detailed report on the work of the office of the child advocate for
25 children's protection and services. Such report shall include, but not be limited to, the
26 number of complaints received by the office, the disposition of such complaints, the
27 number of recipients involved in complaints, the state entities named in complaints and
28 whether such complaints were found to be substantiated, and any recommendations for
29 improving the delivery of services to reduce complaints or improving the function of the
30 office of the child advocate for children's protection and services.

37.725. 1. Any files maintained by the advocate program shall be disclosed only at
2 the discretion of the child advocate; except that the identity of any complainant or recipient
3 shall not be disclosed by the office unless:

4 (1) The complainant or recipient, or the complainant's or recipient's legal
5 representative, consents in writing to such disclosure; or

6 (2) Such disclosure is required by court order.

7 2. Any statement or communication made by the office relevant to a complaint
8 received by, proceedings before, or activities of the office and any complaint or information

9 made or provided in good faith by any person shall be absolutely privileged and such
10 person shall be immune from suit.

11 3. Any representative of the office conducting or participating in any examination
12 of a complaint who knowingly and willfully discloses to any person other than the office,
13 or those persons authorized by the office to receive it, the name of any witness examined
14 or any information obtained or given during such examination is guilty of a class A
15 misdemeanor. However, the office conducting or participating in any examination of a
16 complaint shall disclose the final result of the examination with the consent of the recipient.

17 4. The office shall not be required to testify in any court with respect to matters
18 held to be confidential in this section except as the court may deem necessary to enforce the
19 provisions of sections 37.700 to 37.730, or where otherwise required by court order.

37.730. 1. Any employee or an unpaid volunteer of the office shall be treated as a
2 representative of the office. No representative of the office shall be held liable for good
3 faith performance of his or her official duties under the provisions of sections 37.700 to
4 37.730 and such representative shall be immune from suit for the good faith performance
5 of such duties. Every representative of the office shall be considered a state employee
6 under section 105.711, RSMo.

7 2. No reprisal or retaliatory action shall be taken against any recipient or employee
8 of the departments or courts for any communication made or information given to the
9 office. Any person who knowingly or willfully violates the provisions of this subsection is
10 guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

43.503. 1. For the purpose of maintaining complete and accurate criminal history record
2 information, all police officers of this state, the clerk of each court, the department of corrections,
3 the sheriff of each county, the chief law enforcement official of a city not within a county and
4 the prosecuting attorney of each county or the circuit attorney of a city not within a county shall
5 submit certain criminal arrest, charge, and disposition information to the central repository for
6 filing without undue delay in the form and manner required by sections 43.500 to 43.543.

7 2. All law enforcement agencies making misdemeanor and felony arrests as determined
8 by section 43.506 shall furnish without undue delay, to the central repository, fingerprints,
9 charges, appropriate charge codes, and descriptions of all persons who are arrested for such
10 offenses on standard fingerprint forms supplied or approved by the highway patrol or
11 electronically in a format and manner approved by the highway patrol. All such agencies shall
12 also notify the central repository of all decisions not to refer such arrests for prosecution. An
13 agency making such arrests may enter into arrangements with other law enforcement agencies
14 for the purpose of furnishing without undue delay such fingerprints, charges, appropriate charge
15 codes, and descriptions to the central repository upon its behalf.

16 3. In instances where an individual less than seventeen years of age and not currently
17 certified as an adult is taken into custody for an offense which would be a felony if committed
18 by an adult, the arresting officer shall take fingerprints for the central repository. These
19 fingerprints shall be taken on fingerprint cards supplied by or approved by the highway patrol
20 or transmitted electronically in a format and manner approved by the highway patrol. The
21 fingerprint cards shall be so constructed that the name of the juvenile should not be made
22 available to the central repository. The individual's name and the unique number associated with
23 the fingerprints and other pertinent information shall be provided to the court of jurisdiction by
24 the agency taking the juvenile into custody. The juvenile's fingerprints and other information
25 shall be forwarded to the central repository and the courts without undue delay. The fingerprint
26 information from the card shall be captured and stored in the automated fingerprint identification
27 system operated by the central repository. In the event the fingerprints are found to match other
28 fingerprints or unsolved latent prints, the central repository shall notify the submitting agency who
29 shall notify the court of jurisdiction as per local agreement.

30 4. Upon certification of the individual as an adult, the **certifying** court shall order a law
31 enforcement agency to immediately fingerprint the individual. The law enforcement agency shall
32 submit such fingerprints to the central repository within fifteen days and shall furnish the offense
33 cycle number associated with the fingerprints to the prosecuting attorney or the circuit attorney
34 of a city not within a county and to the clerk of the court ordering the subject fingerprinted. If the
35 juvenile is acquitted of the crime and is no longer certified as an adult, the prosecuting attorney
36 shall notify within fifteen days the central repository of the change of status of the juvenile.
37 Records of a child who has been fingerprinted and photographed after being taken into custody
38 shall be closed records as provided under section 610.100, RSMo, if a petition has not been filed
39 within thirty days of the date that the child was taken into custody; and if a petition for the child
40 has not been filed within one year of the date the child was taken into custody, any records
41 relating to the child concerning the alleged offense may be expunged under the procedures in
42 sections 610.122 to 610.126, RSMo.

43 5. The prosecuting attorney of each county or the circuit attorney of a city not within a
44 county shall notify the central repository on standard forms supplied by the highway patrol or in
45 a manner approved by the highway patrol of all charges filed, including all those added
46 subsequent to the filing of a criminal court case, and whether charges were not filed in criminal
47 cases for which the central repository has a record of an arrest. All records forwarded to the
48 central repository by prosecutors or circuit attorneys as required by sections 43.500 to 43.530
49 shall include the state offense cycle number of the offense, the charge code for the offense, and
50 the originating agency identifier number of the reporting prosecutor, using such numbers as
51 assigned by the highway patrol.

52 6. The clerk of the courts of each county or city not within a county shall furnish the
53 central repository, on standard forms supplied by the highway patrol or in a manner approved by
54 the highway patrol, with all final dispositions of cases for which the central repository has a
55 record of an arrest or a record of fingerprints reported pursuant to sections 43.500 to 43.506.
56 Such information shall include, for each charge:

57 (1) All judgments of not guilty, acquittals on the ground of mental disease or defect
58 excluding responsibility, judgments or pleas of guilty including the sentence, if any, or probation,
59 if any, pronounced by the court, nolle pros, discharges, releases and dismissals in the trial court;

60 (2) Court orders filed with the clerk of the courts which reverse a reported conviction
61 or vacate or modify a sentence;

62 (3) Judgments terminating or revoking a sentence to probation, supervision or
63 conditional release and any resentencing after such revocation; and

64 (4) The offense cycle number of the offense, and the originating agency identifier
65 number of the sentencing court, using such numbers as assigned by the highway patrol.

66 7. The clerk of the courts of each county or city not within a county shall furnish, to the
67 department of corrections or department of mental health, court judgment and sentence
68 documents and the state offense cycle number and the charge code of the offense which resulted
69 in the commitment or assignment of an offender to the jurisdiction of the department of
70 corrections or the department of mental health if the person is committed pursuant to chapter
71 552, RSMo. This information shall be reported to the department of corrections or the
72 department of mental health at the time of commitment or assignment. If the offender was
73 already in the custody of the department of corrections or the department of mental health at the
74 time of such subsequent conviction, the clerk shall furnish notice of such subsequent conviction
75 to the appropriate department by certified mail, return receipt requested, or in a manner and
76 format mutually agreed to, within fifteen days of such disposition.

77 8. Information and fingerprints, and other indicia forwarded to the central repository,
78 normally obtained from a person at the time of the arrest, may be obtained at any time the subject
79 is in the criminal justice system or committed to the department of mental health. A law
80 enforcement agency or the department of corrections may fingerprint the person and obtain the
81 necessary information at any time the subject is in custody. If at the time of disposition, the
82 defendant has not been fingerprinted for an offense in which a fingerprint is required by statute
83 to be collected, maintained, or disseminated by the central repository, the court shall order a law
84 enforcement agency to fingerprint immediately the defendant. The law enforcement agency shall
85 submit such fingerprints to the central repository without undue delay and within thirty days and
86 shall furnish the offense cycle number associated with the fingerprints to the prosecuting attorney

87 or the circuit attorney of a city not within a county and to the court clerk of the court ordering the
88 subject fingerprinted.

89 9. The department of corrections and the department of mental health shall furnish the
90 central repository with all information concerning the receipt, escape, execution, death, release,
91 pardon, parole, commutation of sentence, granting of executive clemency, legal name change,
92 or discharge of an individual who has been sentenced to that department's custody for any
93 offenses which are mandated by law to be collected, maintained or disseminated by the central
94 repository. All records forwarded to the central repository by the department as required by
95 sections 43.500 to 43.543 shall include the offense cycle number of the offense, and the
96 originating agency identifier number of the department using such numbers as assigned by the
97 highway patrol.

43.530. 1. For each request requiring the payment of a fee received by the central
2 repository, the requesting entity shall pay a fee of not more than five dollars per request for
3 criminal history record information not based on a fingerprint search **when the requesting entity**
4 **is required to obtain such information by any provision of state or federal law** and pay a fee
5 of not more than fourteen dollars per request for criminal history record information based on
6 a fingerprint search **when the requesting entity is required to obtain such information by any**
7 **provision of state or federal law; provided that, when the requesting entity is not required**
8 **to obtain such information by law, the requesting entity shall pay a fee of not more than**
9 **ten dollars per request for criminal history record information not based on a fingerprint**
10 **search and pay a fee of not more than twenty dollars per request for criminal history**
11 **record information based on a fingerprint search.** Each such request shall be limited to check
12 and search on one individual. Each request shall be accompanied by a check, warrant, voucher,
13 money order, or electronic payment payable to the state of Missouri-criminal record system or
14 payment shall be made in a manner approved by the highway patrol. The highway patrol may
15 establish procedures for receiving requests for criminal history record information for
16 classification and search for fingerprints, from courts and other entities, and for the payment of
17 such requests. There is hereby established by the treasurer of the state of Missouri a fund to be
18 entitled as the "Criminal Record System Fund". Notwithstanding the provisions of section
19 33.080, RSMo, to the contrary, if the moneys collected and deposited into this fund are not
20 totally expended annually for the purposes set forth in sections 43.500 to 43.543, the unexpended
21 moneys in such fund shall remain in the fund and the balance shall be kept in the fund to
22 accumulate from year to year.

23 2. For purposes of obtaining criminal records prior to issuance of a school bus operator's
24 permit pursuant to section 302.272, RSMo, and for determining eligibility for such permit, the
25 applicant for such permit shall submit two sets of fingerprints to the director of revenue when

26 applying for the permit. The fingerprints shall be collected in a manner approved by the
27 superintendent of the highway patrol. The school bus permit applicant shall pay the appropriate
28 fee described in this section and pay the appropriate fee determined by the Federal Bureau of
29 Investigation for the federal criminal history record when he or she applies for the school bus
30 permit. Collections for records described in this subsection shall be deposited in the criminal
31 record system fund.

43.540. 1. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

2 (1) "Authorized state agency", a division of state government or an office of state
3 government designated by the statutes of Missouri to issue or renew a license, permit,
4 certification, or registration of authority to a qualified entity;

5 (2) "Care", the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, supervision,
6 or recreation;

7 (3) "Missouri criminal record review", a review of criminal history records [or] **and** sex
8 offender registration records pursuant to sections 589.400 to 589.425, RSMo, maintained by the
9 Missouri state highway patrol in the Missouri criminal records repository;

10 (4) "National criminal record review", a review of the criminal history records
11 maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

12 (5) "Patient or resident", a person who by reason of age, illness, disease or physical or
13 mental infirmity receives or requires care or services furnished by a provider, as defined in this
14 section, or who resides or boards in, or is otherwise kept, cared for, treated or accommodated in
15 a facility as defined in section 198.006, RSMo, for a period exceeding twenty-four consecutive
16 hours;

17 (6) "Provider", a person who:

18 (a) Has or may have unsupervised access to children, the elderly, or persons with
19 disabilities; and

20 (b) **a.** Is employed by or seeks employment with a qualified entity; or

21 [(c)] **b.** Volunteers or seeks to volunteer with a qualified entity; or

22 [(d)] **c.** Owns or operates a qualified entity;

23 (7) "Qualified entity", a person, business, or organization, whether public or private, for
24 profit, not for profit, or voluntary, that provides care, placement, or educational services for
25 children, the elderly, or persons with disabilities as patients or residents, including a business or
26 organization that licenses or certifies others to provide care or placement services;

27 (8) "Youth services agency", any public or private agency, school, or association which
28 provides programs, care or treatment for or which exercises supervision over minors.

29 2. A qualified entity may obtain a Missouri criminal record review of a provider from
30 the highway patrol by furnishing information on forms and in the manner approved by the
31 highway patrol.

32 3. A qualified entity may request a Missouri criminal record review and a national
33 criminal record review of a provider through an authorized state agency. No authorized state
34 agency is required by this section to process Missouri or national criminal record reviews for a
35 qualified entity, however, if an authorized state agency agrees to process Missouri and national
36 criminal record reviews for a qualified entity, the qualified entity shall provide to the authorized
37 state agency on forms and in a manner approved by the highway patrol the following:

38 (1) Two sets of fingerprints of the provider **if a national criminal record review is**
39 **requested;**

40 (2) A statement signed by the provider which contains:

41 (a) The provider's name, address, and date of birth;

42 (b) Whether the provider has been convicted of or has pled guilty to a crime which
43 includes a suspended imposition of sentence;

44 (c) If the provider has been convicted of or has pled guilty to a crime, a description of
45 the crime, and the particulars of the conviction or plea;

46 (d) The authority of the qualified entity to check the provider's criminal history;

47 (e) The right of the provider to review the report received by the qualified entity; and

48 (f) The right of the provider to challenge the accuracy of the report. If the challenge is
49 to the accuracy of the criminal record review, the challenge shall be made to the highway patrol.

50 4. The authorized state agency shall forward the required forms and fees to the highway
51 patrol. The results of the record review shall be forwarded to the authorized state agency who
52 will notify the qualified entity. The authorized state agency may assess a fee to the qualified
53 entity to cover the cost of handling the criminal record review and may establish an account
54 solely for the collection and dissemination of fees associated with the criminal record reviews.

55 5. Any information received by an authorized state agency or a qualified entity pursuant
56 to the provisions of this section shall be used solely for internal purposes in determining the
57 suitability of a provider. The dissemination of criminal history information from the Federal
58 Bureau of Investigation beyond the authorized state agency or related governmental entity is
59 prohibited. All criminal record check information shall be confidential and any person who
60 discloses the information beyond the scope allowed is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

61 6. The highway patrol shall make available or approve the necessary forms, procedures,
62 and agreements necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

135.327. 1. Any person residing in this state who legally adopts a special needs child
2 on or after January 1, 1988, and before January 1, 2000, shall be eligible to receive a tax credit

3 of up to ten thousand dollars for nonrecurring adoption expenses for each child adopted that may
4 be applied to taxes due under chapter 143, RSMo. Any business entity providing funds to an
5 employee to enable that employee to legally adopt a special needs child shall be eligible to
6 receive a tax credit of up to ten thousand dollars for nonrecurring adoption expenses for each
7 child adopted that may be applied to taxes due under such business entity's state tax liability,
8 except that only one ten thousand dollar credit is available for each special needs child that is
9 adopted.

10 2. Any person residing in this state who proceeds in good faith with the adoption of a
11 special needs child on or after January 1, 2000, shall be eligible to receive a tax credit of up to
12 ten thousand dollars for nonrecurring adoption expenses for each child that may be applied to
13 taxes due under chapter 143, RSMo; **provided, however, that beginning on or after July 1,**
14 **2004, a minimum of fifty percent of the tax credits allowed shall be allocated for the**
15 **adoption of special needs children who are residents or wards of residents of this state at**
16 **the time the adoption is initiated.** Any business entity providing funds to an employee to
17 enable that employee to proceed in good faith with the adoption of a special needs child shall be
18 eligible to receive a tax credit of up to ten thousand dollars for nonrecurring adoption expenses
19 for each child that may be applied to taxes due under such business entity's state tax liability,
20 except that only one ten thousand dollar credit is available for each special needs child that is
21 adopted.

22 3. Individuals and business entities may claim a tax credit for their total nonrecurring
23 adoption expenses in each year that the expenses are incurred. A claim for fifty percent of the
24 credit shall be allowed when the child is placed in the home. A claim for the remaining fifty
25 percent shall be allowed when the adoption is final. The total of these tax credits shall not
26 exceed the maximum limit of ten thousand dollars per child. The cumulative amount of tax
27 credits which may be claimed by taxpayers **claiming the credit** for nonrecurring adoption
28 expenses in any one fiscal year **prior to July 1, 2004**, shall not exceed two million dollars **and**
29 **shall not exceed four million dollars in any one fiscal year beginning on or after July 1,**
30 **2004; provided, however, that in the first ninety days following each July first, if less than**
31 **two million dollars in credits have been issued for adoption of special needs children who**
32 **are not residents or wards of residents of this state at the time the adoption is initiated, the**
33 **remaining amount of the four million dollar cap shall be available for the adoption of**
34 **special needs children who are residents or wards of residents of this state at the time the**
35 **adoption is initiated.**

36 4. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any individual or business entity
37 may assign, transfer or sell tax credits allowed in this section. Any sale of tax credits claimed

38 pursuant to this section shall be at a discount rate of seventy-five percent or greater of the amount
39 sold.

40 **5. The director of revenue shall establish a procedure by which, for each fiscal year,**
41 **the cumulative amount of tax credits authorized in this section is equally apportioned**
42 **among all taxpayers within the two categories specified in subsection 2 of this section**
43 **claiming the credit in that fiscal year. To the maximum extent possible, the director of**
44 **revenue shall establish the procedure described in this subsection in such a manner as to**
45 **ensure that taxpayers within each category can claim all the tax credits possible up to the**
46 **cumulative amount of tax credits available for the fiscal year.**

47 **6. The director of revenue shall submit to the general assembly, by January 1, 2005**
48 **and each succeeding year, information by income levels of those individual taxpayers who**
49 **have qualified and claimed the credit authorized in this section, regardless of whether those**
50 **taxpayers have assigned, transferred, or sold such credits. The information shall indicate**
51 **the number of such taxpayers with federal adjusted gross income in the immediately**
52 **preceding tax year of less than one hundred fifty thousand dollars, of one hundred fifty**
53 **thousand dollars to and including one hundred ninety thousand dollars, and of more than**
54 **one hundred ninety thousand dollars.**

167.020. 1. As used in this section, the term "homeless child" or "**homeless youth**"
2 shall mean a person less than twenty-one years of age who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate
3 nighttime residence, including a child or youth who:

4 (1) Is [living on the street, in a car, tent, abandoned building or some other form of
5 shelter not designed as a permanent home;

6 (2) Is living in a community shelter facility;

7 (3) Is living in transitional housing for less than one full year] **sharing the housing of**
8 **other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; is living in**
9 **motels, hotels, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;**
10 **is living in emergency or transitional shelters; is abandoned in hospitals; or is awaiting**
11 **foster care placement;**

12 (2) **Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed**
13 **for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;**

14 (3) **Is living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard**
15 **housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and**

16 (4) **Is a migratory child or youth who qualifies as homeless because the child or**
17 **youth is living in circumstances described in subdivisions (1) to (3) of this subsection.**

18 2. In order to register a pupil, the parent or legal guardian of the pupil or the pupil
19 himself or herself shall provide, at the time of registration, one of the following:

20 (1) Proof of residency in the district. Except as otherwise provided in section 167.151,
21 the term "residency" shall mean that a person both physically resides within a school district and
22 is domiciled within that district. The domicile of a minor child shall be the domicile of a parent,
23 military guardian pursuant to a military-issued guardianship or court-appointed legal guardian;
24 or

25 (2) Proof that the person registering the student has requested a waiver under subsection
26 3 of this section within the last forty-five days. In instances where there is reason to suspect that
27 admission of the pupil will create an immediate danger to the safety of other pupils and
28 employees of the district, the superintendent or the superintendent's designee may convene a
29 hearing within three working days of the request to register and determine whether or not the
30 pupil may register.

31 3. Any person subject to the requirements of subsection 2 of this section may request a
32 waiver from the district board of any of those requirements on the basis of hardship or good
33 cause. Under no circumstances shall athletic ability be a valid basis of hardship or good cause
34 for the issuance of a waiver of the requirements of subsection 2 of this section. The district
35 board shall convene a hearing as soon as possible, but no later than forty-five days after receipt
36 of the waiver request made under this subsection or the waiver request shall be granted. The
37 district board may grant the request for a waiver of any requirement of subsection 2 of this
38 section. The district board may also reject the request for a waiver in which case the pupil shall
39 not be allowed to register. Any person aggrieved by a decision of a district board on a request
40 for a waiver under this subsection may appeal such decision to the circuit court in the county
41 where the school district is located.

42 4. Any person who knowingly submits false information to satisfy any requirement of
43 subsection 2 of this section is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

44 5. In addition to any other penalties authorized by law, a district board may file a civil
45 action to recover, from the parent, military guardian or legal guardian of the pupil, the costs of
46 school attendance for any pupil who was enrolled at a school in the district and whose parent,
47 military guardian or legal guardian filed false information to satisfy any requirement of
48 subsection 2 of this section.

49 6. Subsection 2 of this section shall not apply to a pupil who is a homeless child **or**
50 **youth**, or a pupil attending a school not in the pupil's district of residence as a participant in an
51 interdistrict transfer program established under a court-ordered desegregation program, a pupil
52 who is a ward of the state and has been placed in a residential care facility by state officials, a
53 pupil who has been placed in a residential care facility due to a mental illness or developmental
54 disability, a pupil attending a school pursuant to sections 167.121 and 167.151, a pupil placed
55 in a residential facility by a juvenile court, a pupil with a disability identified under state

56 eligibility criteria if the student is in the district for reasons other than accessing the district's
57 educational program, or a pupil attending a regional or cooperative alternative education program
58 or an alternative education program on a contractual basis.

59 7. Within two business days of enrolling a pupil, the school official enrolling a pupil,
60 including any special education pupil, shall request those records required by district policy for
61 student transfer and those discipline records required by subsection 7 of section 160.261, RSMo,
62 from all schools previously attended by the pupil within the last twelve months. Any school
63 district that receives a request for such records from another school district enrolling a pupil that
64 had previously attended a school in such district shall respond to such request within five
65 business days of receiving the request. School districts may report or disclose education records
66 to law enforcement and juvenile justice authorities if the disclosure concerns law enforcement's
67 or juvenile justice authorities' ability to effectively serve, prior to adjudication, the student whose
68 records are released. The officials and authorities to whom such information is disclosed must
69 comply with applicable restrictions set forth in 20 U.S.C. Section 1232g (b)(1)(E).

**168.283. 1. The school district shall ensure that a criminal background check is
2 conducted on any person employed after January 1, 2005, authorized to have contact with
3 pupils and prior to the individual having contact with any pupil. Such persons include, but
4 are not limited to, administrators, teachers, aides, paraprofessionals, assistants, secretaries,
5 custodians, cooks, and nurses. For bus drivers, the background check conducted by the
6 department of revenue for the issuance or renewal of a school bus permit under section
7 302.272, RSMo, shall satisfy the background check requirements of this section.**

8 **2. In order to facilitate the criminal history background check on any person
9 employed after January 1, 2005, the applicant shall submit two sets of fingerprints
10 collected pursuant to standards determined by the Missouri highway patrol. One set of
11 fingerprints shall be used by the highway patrol to search the criminal history repository
12 and the family care safety registry pursuant to sections 210.900 to 210.936, RSMo, and the
13 second set shall be forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for searching the
14 federal criminal history files.**

15 **3. The applicant shall pay the fee for the state criminal history record information
16 pursuant to section 43.530, RSMo, and sections 210.900 to 210.936, RSMo, and pay the
17 appropriate fee determined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the federal criminal
18 history record when he or she applies for a position authorized to have contact with pupils
19 pursuant to this section. The department shall distribute the fees collected for the state and
20 federal criminal histories to the Missouri highway patrol.**

21 **4. The school district may adopt a policy to provide for reimbursement of expenses**
22 **incurred by an employee for state and federal criminal history information pursuant to**
23 **section 43.530, RSMo.**

24 **5. If, as a result of the criminal history background check mandated by this section,**
25 **it is determined that the holder of a certificate issued pursuant to section 168.021 has pled**
26 **guilty or nolo contendere to, or been found guilty of a crime or offense listed in section**
27 **168.071, RSMo, or a similar crime or offense committed in another state, the United States,**
28 **or any other country, regardless of imposition of sentence, such information shall be**
29 **reported to the department of elementary and secondary education.**

30 **6. Any school official making a report to the department of elementary and**
31 **secondary education in conformity with this section shall not be subject to civil liability for**
32 **such action.**

33 **7. Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter the standards for suspension,**
34 **denial, or revocation of a certificate issued pursuant to this chapter.**

35 **8. The state board of education may promulgate rules for criminal history**
36 **background checks made pursuant to this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that**
37 **term is defined in section 536.010, RSMo, that is created under the authority delegated in**
38 **this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the**
39 **provisions of chapter 536, RSMo, and, if applicable, section 536.028, RSMo. This section**
40 **and chapter 536, RSMo, are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general**
41 **assembly pursuant to chapter 536, RSMo, to review, to delay the effective date, or to**
42 **disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of**
43 **rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after the effective date of this**
44 **section shall be invalid and void.**

45 **9. The provisions of this section shall become effective January 1, 2005.**

191.748. Every hospital and any health care facility licensed in this state that
2 **provides obstetrical services shall offer to all new mothers an opportunity to view with the**
3 **father and other persons of the mother's choosing a video on the dangers of shaking a baby**
4 **and shaken baby syndrome before the mother's discharge from the facility. Such video**
5 **shall be approved by the department of health and senior services.**

 192.016. 1. The department of health and senior services shall establish a putative father
2 registry which shall record the names and addresses of:

3 (1) Any person adjudicated by a court of this state to be the father of a child born out of
4 wedlock;

5 (2) Any person who has filed with the registry before or after the birth of a child out of
6 wedlock, a notice of intent to claim paternity of the child;

7 (3) Any person adjudicated by a court of another state or territory of the United States
8 to be the father of an out-of-wedlock child, where a certified copy of the court order has been
9 filed with the registry by such person or any other person.

10 2. A person filing a notice of intent to claim paternity of a child or an acknowledgment
11 of paternity shall file the acknowledgment affidavit form developed by the state registrar which
12 shall include the minimum requirements prescribed by the Secretary of the United States
13 Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Section 652(a)(7).

14 3. A person filing a notice of intent to claim paternity of a child shall notify the registry
15 of any change of address.

16 4. A person who has filed a notice of intent to claim paternity may at any time revoke
17 a notice of intent to claim paternity previously filed therewith and, upon receipt of such
18 notification by the registry, the revoked notice of intent to claim paternity shall be deemed a
19 nullity nunc pro tunc.

20 5. An unrevoked notice of intent to claim paternity of a child may be introduced in
21 evidence by any party, other than the person who filed such notice, in any proceeding in which
22 such fact may be relevant.

23 6. **Lack of knowledge of the pregnancy does not excuse failure to timely file**
24 **pursuant to subdivisions (b) or (c) of subdivision (2) of subsection 3 of section 453.030,**
25 **RSMo.**

26 7. **Failure to timely file pursuant to subdivisions (b) or (c) of subsection 3 of section**
27 **453.030, RSMo, shall waive a man's right to withhold consent to an adoption proceeding**
28 **unless:**

29 (1) **The person was led to believe through the mother's misrepresentation or fraud**
30 **that:**

31 (a) **The mother was not pregnant when in fact she was; or**

32 (b) **The pregnancy was terminated when in fact the baby was born; or**

33 (c) **After the birth, the child died when in fact the child is alive; and**

34 (2) **The person upon the discovery of the misrepresentation or fraud satisfied the**
35 **requirements of subdivision (b) or (c) of subsection 3 of section 453.030, RSMo, within**
36 **fifteen days of that discovery.**

37 8. The department shall, upon request and within two business days of such request,
38 provide the names and addresses of persons listed with the registry to any court or authorized
39 agency, or entity or person named in section 453.014, RSMo, and such information shall not be
40 divulged to any other person, except upon order of a court for good cause shown.

41 [7.] 9. The department of health and senior services shall:

42 (1) Prepare forms for registration of paternity and an application for search of the
43 putative father registry;

44 (2) Produce and distribute a pamphlet or publication informing the public about the
45 putative father registry, including the procedures for voluntary acknowledgment of paternity, the
46 consequences of acknowledgment and failure to acknowledge paternity pursuant to section
47 453.010, RSMo, [and the address of] **a copy of a statement informing the public about the**
48 **putative father registry, including, to whom and under what circumstances it applies, the**
49 **time limits and responsibilities for filing, protection of paternal rights and associated**
50 **responsibilities, and other provisions of this section, and a detachable form meeting the**
51 **requirements of subsection 2 of this section addressed to** the putative father registry. Such
52 pamphlet or publication shall be made available for distribution at all offices of the department
53 of health and senior services. The department shall also provide such pamphlets or publications
54 to the department of social services, hospitals, libraries, medical clinics, schools, universities,
55 and other providers of child-related services upon request;

56 (3) Provide information to the public at large by way of general public service
57 announcements, or other ways to deliver information to the public about the putative father
58 registry and its services.

59 **10. Pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection 9 of section 192.016, RSMo, a**
60 **statement prepared by the department of health and senior services shall be contained in**
61 **any pamphlet or publication informing the public about the putative father registry.**

207.050. In every county there [shall] **may** be established a county family services
2 commission to consist of four persons, two from each of the two major political parties, to be
3 selected by the director of social services from a list submitted to the director of the department
4 of social services by the county commission, consisting of double the number of appointments
5 to be made. Each member of the county family services commission shall serve for a term of
6 four years. Vacancies shall be filled in the same way in which the original appointment was
7 made. [If the county commission fails or refuses to submit a list to the director of social services
8 as required by this section for the appointment of members of the county family services
9 commission within ten days after such appointments are to be made the director of social
10 services shall make such appointments as may be necessary from a list prepared by the director
11 of social services.] The duties of the county family services commission shall be advisory in
12 nature with the power to examine the records of any case pending within their county and to
13 make recommendations thereon. They shall serve without compensation, but shall be paid their
14 traveling expenses and other necessary expense in the performance of their duty. No elective
15 officer shall be appointed as a member of the county family services commission, and upon
16 becoming a candidate for any elective office, such member of the county family services

17 commission shall forthwith forfeit his **or her** position on the commission. Duties imposed by
18 this law upon the several county commissions shall be performed in the city of St. Louis by the
19 board of estimate and apportionment.

207.060. 1. The [director of family services shall establish] **directors of the family
2 support division and children's division shall jointly operate and maintain** a county office
3 in every county, which may be in the charge of a county welfare director who shall have been
4 a resident of the state of Missouri for a period of at least two years immediately prior to taking
5 office and whose salary shall be paid from funds appropriated for the **family support** division
6 [of family services] **and children's division**.

7 2. For the purpose of establishing and maintaining county offices, or carrying out any
8 of the duties of the [division of family services] **divisions**, the [director of family services]
9 **division directors** may enter into agreements with any political subdivision of this state, and as
10 a part of such agreement, may accept moneys, services, or quarters as a contribution toward the
11 support and maintenance of such county offices. Any funds so received shall be payable to the
12 director of revenue and deposited in the proper special account in the state treasury, and become
13 and be a part of state funds appropriated for the use of the [division of family services] **family
14 support division and children's division**.

15 3. Other employees in the county offices shall be employed with due regard to the
16 population of the county, existing conditions and purpose to be accomplished. Such employees
17 shall be paid as are other employees of the [division of family services] **family support division
18 and children's division**.

207.085. 1. **Any employee of the children's division, including supervisory
2 personnel and private contractors with the division, who is involved with child protective
3 services and purposely, knowingly, and willfully violates a stated or written policy of the
4 division, any rule promulgated by the division, or any state law directly related to the child
5 abuse and neglect activities of the division shall be dismissed if the violation directly results
6 in serious physical injury or death, subject to the provisions of subsection 2 of this section.
7 The provisions of this section shall apply to merit system employees of the division, as well
8 as all other employees of the division and private contractors with the division, and upon
9 a showing of a violation, such employees shall be dismissed for cause, subject to the
10 provisions of subsection 2 of this section, and shall have the right of appeal pursuant to
11 sections 36.380 and 36.390, RSMo. For purposes of this section, a "private contractor with
12 the division" means any private entity or community action agency with the appropriate
13 and relevant training and expertise in delivering services to children and their families as
14 determined by the children's division, and capable of providing direct services and other**

15 **family services for children in the custody of the children's division or any such entities or**
16 **agencies that are receiving state moneys for such services.**

17 **2. The provisions of sections 660.019 to 660.021, RSMo, shall apply to this section.**
18 **If an employee of the division or a private contractor with the division is responsible for**
19 **caseload assignments in excess of those required to attain accreditation by the Council for**
20 **Accreditation for Families and Children's Services, and the employee purposely,**
21 **knowingly, and willfully violates a stated or written policy of the division, any rule**
22 **promulgated by the division, or any state law directly related to the child abuse and neglect**
23 **activities of the division and the violation directly results in serious physical injury or**
24 **death, the employee's good faith efforts to follow the stated or written policies of the**
25 **division, the rules promulgated by the division, or the state laws directly related to the**
26 **child abuse and neglect activities of the division shall be a mitigating factor in determining**
27 **whether an employee of the division or a private contractor with the division is dismissed**
28 **pursuant to subsection 1 of this section.**

208.647. Any child identified as having special health care needs, defined as a
2 **condition which left untreated would result in the death or serious physical injury of a**
3 **child, that does not have access to affordable employer-subsidized health care insurance**
4 **shall not be required to be without health care coverage for six months in order to be**
5 **eligible for services under sections 208.631 to 208.657 and shall not be subject to the**
6 **waiting period required under section 208.646, as long as the child meets all other**
7 **qualifications for eligibility.**

210.025. 1. To qualify for receipt of state or federal funds for providing child-care
2 services in the home either by direct payment or through reimbursement to a child-care
3 beneficiary, an applicant and any person over the age of [eighteen] **seventeen** who is living in
4 the applicant's home shall be required to submit to a criminal background check pursuant to
5 section 43.540, RSMo, and a check of the central registry for child abuse established in section
6 210.145. Effective January 1, 2001, the requirements of this subsection or subsection 2 of this
7 section shall be satisfied through registration with the family care safety registry established in
8 sections 210.900 to 210.936. Any costs associated with such checks shall be paid by the
9 applicant.

10 **2. Upon receipt of an application for state or federal funds for providing child-care**
11 **services in the home, the family support division [of family services] shall:**

12 **(1) Determine if a [probable cause] finding of child abuse or neglect by probable cause**
13 **prior to the effective date of this section or by a preponderance of the evidence after the**
14 **effective date of this section involving the applicant or any person over the age of [eighteen]**

15 **seventeen** who is living in the applicant's home has been recorded pursuant to section 210.221
16 or 210.145;

17 (2) Determine if the applicant or any person over the age of [eighteen] **seventeen** who
18 is living in the applicant's home has been refused licensure or has experienced licensure
19 suspension or revocation pursuant to section 210.221 or 210.496; and

20 (3) **Upon initial application, require the applicant to submit to fingerprinting and**
21 **request a criminal background check of the applicant and any person over the age of [eighteen]**
22 **seventeen who is living in the applicant's home pursuant to section 43.540, RSMo, and section**
23 **210.487, and inquire of the applicant whether any children less than seventeen years of age**
24 **residing in the applicant's home have ever been certified as an adult and convicted of, or**
25 **pled guilty or nolo contendere to any crime.**

26 3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4 of this section, upon completion of the
27 background checks in subsection 2 of this section, an applicant shall be denied state or federal
28 funds for providing child care if such applicant [or], any person over the age of [eighteen]
29 **seventeen who is living in the applicant's home, and any child less than seventeen years of age**
30 **who is living in the applicant's home and who the division has determined has been**
31 **certified as an adult for the commission of a crime:**

32 (1) Has had a [probable cause] finding of child abuse or neglect **by probable cause**
33 **prior to the effective date of this section or by a preponderance of the evidence after the**
34 **effective date of this section** pursuant to section 210.145 or **section 210.152;**

35 (2) Has been refused licensure or has experienced licensure suspension or revocation
36 pursuant to section 210.496;

37 (3) Has pled guilty or nolo contendere to or been found guilty of any felony for an
38 offense against the person as defined by chapter 565, RSMo, or any other offense against the
39 person involving the endangerment of a child as prescribed by law; of any misdemeanor or
40 felony for a sexual offense as defined by chapter 566, RSMo; of any misdemeanor or felony for
41 an offense against the family as defined in chapter 568, RSMo, with the exception of the sale of
42 fireworks, as defined in section 320.110, RSMo, to a child under the age of eighteen; of any
43 misdemeanor or felony for pornography or related offense as defined by chapter 573, RSMo; or
44 of any similar crime in any federal, state, municipal or other court of similar jurisdiction of which
45 the director has knowledge or any offenses or reports which will disqualify an applicant from
46 receiving state or federal funds.

47 4. An applicant shall be given an opportunity by the division to offer any extenuating or
48 mitigating circumstances regarding the findings, refusals or violations against such applicant or
49 any person over the age of [eighteen] **seventeen or less than seventeen** who is living in the
50 applicant's home listed in subsection 2 of this section. Such extenuating and mitigating

51 circumstances may be considered by the division in its determination of whether to permit such
52 applicant to receive state or federal funds for providing child care in the home.

53 5. An applicant who has been denied state or federal funds for providing child care in
54 the home may appeal such denial decision in accordance with the provisions of section 208.080,
55 RSMo.

56 6. If an applicant is denied state or federal funds for providing child care in the home
57 based on the background check results for any person over the age of [eighteen] **seventeen** who
58 is living in the applicant's home, the applicant shall not apply for such funds until such person
59 is no longer living in the applicant's home.

60 7. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, RSMo, that
61 is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies
62 with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536, RSMo, and, if applicable, section
63 536.028, RSMo. All rulemaking authority delegated prior to August 28, 1999, is of no force and
64 effect and repealed. Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to repeal or affect the validity
65 of any rule filed or adopted prior to August 28, 1999, if it fully complied with all applicable
66 provisions of law. This section and chapter 536, RSMo, are nonseverable and if any of the
67 powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536, RSMo, to review, to delay the
68 effective date or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the
69 grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 1999, shall be
70 invalid and void.

210.102. **1.** It shall be the duty of the Missouri children's services commission to:

2 (1) Make recommendations which will encourage greater interagency coordination,
3 cooperation, more effective utilization of existing resources and less duplication of effort in
4 activities of state agencies which affect the legal rights and well-being of children in Missouri;

5 (2) Develop an integrated state plan for the care provided to children in this state through
6 state programs;

7 (3) Develop a plan to improve the quality of [child day care] **children's** programs
8 statewide. Such plan shall include, but not be limited to:

9 (a) Methods for promoting geographic availability and financial accessibility for all
10 children and families in need of such services;

11 (b) Program recommendations for [child day care] **children's** services which include
12 child development, education, supervision, health and social services;

13 (4) Design and implement evaluation of the activities of the commission in fulfilling the
14 duties as set out in this section;

15 (5) Report annually to the governor with five copies each to the house of representatives
16 and senate about its activities including, but not limited to the following:

17 (a) A general description of the activities pertaining to children of each state agency
18 having a member on the commission;

19 (b) A general description of the plans and goals, as they affect children, of each state
20 agency having a member on the commission;

21 (c) Recommendations for statutory and appropriation initiatives to implement the
22 integrated state plan;

23 (d) A report from the commission regarding the state of children in Missouri.

24 **2. There is hereby established within the children's services commission the**
25 **"Coordinating Board for Early Childhood", which shall constitute a body corporate and**
26 **politic, and shall include but not be limited to the following members:**

27 **(1) A representative from the governor's office;**

28 **(2) A representative from each of the following departments: health and senior**
29 **services, mental health, social services, and elementary and secondary education;**

30 **(3) A representative of the judiciary;**

31 **(4) A representative of the family and community trust board (FACT);**

32 **(5) A representative from the head start program;**

33 **(6) Nine members appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the**
34 **senate who are representatives of the groups, such as business, philanthropy, civic groups,**
35 **faith-based organizations, parent groups, advocacy organizations, early childhood service**
36 **providers, and other stakeholders.**

37

38 **The coordinating board may make all rules it deems necessary to enable it to conduct its**
39 **meetings, elect its officers, and set the terms and duties of its officers. The coordinating**
40 **board shall elect from amongst its members a chairperson, vice chairperson, a secretary-**
41 **reporter, and such other officers as it deems necessary. Members of the board shall serve**
42 **without compensation but may be reimbursed for actual expenses necessary to the**
43 **performance of their official duties for the board.**

44 **3. The coordinating board for early childhood shall have the power to:**

45 **(1) Develop a comprehensive statewide long-range strategic plan for a cohesive**
46 **early childhood system;**

47 **(2) Confer with public and private entities for the purpose of promoting and**
48 **improving the development of children from birth through age five of this state;**

49 **(3) Identify legislative recommendations to improve services for children from birth**
50 **through age five;**

51 **(4) Promote coordination of existing services and programs across public and**
52 **private entities;**

- 53 **(5) Promote research-based approaches to services and ongoing program**
54 **evaluation;**
- 55 **(6) Identify service gaps and advise public and private entities on methods to close**
56 **such gaps;**
- 57 **(7) Apply for and accept gifts, grants, appropriations, loans, or contributions to the**
58 **coordinating board for early childhood fund from any source, public or private, and enter**
59 **into contracts or other transactions with any federal or state agency, any private**
60 **organizations, or any other source in furtherance of the purpose of subsections 2 and 3 of**
61 **this section, and take any and all actions necessary to avail itself of such aid and**
62 **cooperation;**
- 63 **(8) Direct disbursements from the coordinating board for early childhood fund as**
64 **provided in this section;**
- 65 **(9) Administer the coordinating board for early childhood fund and invest any**
66 **portion of the moneys not required for immediate disbursement in obligations of the**
67 **United States or any agency or instrumentality of the United States, in obligations of the**
68 **state of Missouri and its political subdivisions, in certificates of deposit and time deposits,**
69 **or other obligations of banks and savings and loan associations, or in such other**
70 **obligations as may be prescribed by the board;**
- 71 **(10) Purchase, receive, take by grant, gift, devise, bequest or otherwise, lease, or**
72 **otherwise acquire, own, hold, improve, employ, use, and otherwise deal with real or**
73 **personal property or any interests therein, wherever situated;**
- 74 **(11) Sell, convey, lease, exchange, transfer or otherwise dispose of all or any of its**
75 **property or any interest therein, wherever situated;**
- 76 **(12) Employ and fix the compensation of an executive director and such other**
77 **agents or employees as it considers necessary;**
- 78 **(13) Adopt, alter, or repeal by its own bylaws, rules, and regulations governing the**
79 **manner in which its business may be transacted;**
- 80 **(14) Adopt and use an official seal;**
- 81 **(15) Assess or charge fees as the board determines to be reasonable to carry out its**
82 **purposes;**
- 83 **(16) Make all expenditures which are incident and necessary to carry out its**
84 **purposes;**
- 85 **(17) Sue and be sued in its official name;**
- 86 **(18) Take such action, enter into such agreements, and exercise all functions**
87 **necessary or appropriate to carry out the duties and purposes set forth in this section.**

88 **4. There is hereby created the "Coordinating Board for Early Childhood Fund"**
89 **which shall consist of the following:**

90 **(1) Any moneys appropriated by the general assembly for use by the board in**
91 **carrying out the powers set out in subsections 2 and 3 of this section;**

92 **(2) Any moneys received from grants or which are given, donated, or contributed**
93 **to the fund from any source;**

94 **(3) Any moneys received as fees authorized under subsections 2 and 3 of this**
95 **section;**

96 **(4) Any moneys received as interest on deposits or as income on approved**
97 **investments of the fund;**

98 **(5) Any moneys obtained from any other available source.**

99

100 **Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080, RSMo, to the contrary, any moneys**
101 **remaining in the coordinating board for early childhood fund at the end of the biennium**
102 **shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund.**

210.108. 1. As used in this section, "voluntary placement agreement" means a
2 **written agreement between the department of social services and a parent, legal guardian,**
3 **or custodian of a child seventeen years of age or younger solely in need of mental health**
4 **treatment. A voluntary placement agreement developed under a department of mental**
5 **health assessment and certification of appropriateness authorizes the department of social**
6 **services to administer the placement and care of a child while the parent, legal guardian,**
7 **or custodian of the child retains legal custody.**

8 **2. The department of social services may enter into a cooperative interagency**
9 **agreement with the department of mental health authorizing the department of mental**
10 **health to administer the placement and care of a child under a voluntary placement**
11 **agreement. The department of mental health is defined as a child placing agency under**
12 **section 210.481 solely for children placed under a voluntary placement agreement.**

13 **3. Any function delegated from the department of social services to the department**
14 **of mental health regarding the placement and care of children shall be administered and**
15 **supervised by the department of social services to ensure compliance with federal and state**
16 **law.**

17 **4. The departments of social services and mental health may promulgate rules**
18 **under this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010,**
19 **RSMo, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective**
20 **only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536, RSMo, and,**
21 **if applicable, section 536.028, RSMo. This section and chapter 536, RSMo, are**

22 **nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to**
23 **chapter 536, RSMo, to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule**
24 **are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any**
25 **rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2004, shall be invalid and void.**

210.109. 1. The **children's** division [of family services] shall establish a child protection
2 system for the entire state.

3 2. The child protection system shall [seek to] promote the safety of children and the
4 integrity and preservation of their families by conducting investigations or family assessments
5 and providing services in response to reports of child abuse or neglect. The system shall
6 [endeavor to] coordinate community resources and provide assistance or services to children and
7 families identified to be at risk, and to prevent and remedy child abuse and neglect.

8 3. In addition to any duties specified in section 210.145, in implementing the child
9 protection system, the division shall:

10 (1) Maintain a central registry;

11 (2) Receive reports and establish and maintain an information system operating at all
12 times, capable of receiving and maintaining reports;

13 (3) Attempt to obtain the name and address of any person making a report in all cases,
14 after obtaining relevant information regarding the alleged abuse or neglect, although reports may
15 be made anonymously; **except that, reports by mandatory reporters under section 210.115,**
16 **including employees of the children's division, juvenile officers, and school personnel shall**
17 **not be made anonymously, provided that the reporter shall be informed, at the time of the**
18 **report, that the reporter's name and any other personally identifiable information shall be**
19 **held as confidential and shall not be made public as provided under this section and section**
20 **211.319, RSMo;**

21 (4) Upon receipt of a report, check with the information system to determine whether
22 previous reports have been made regarding actual or suspected abuse or neglect of the subject
23 child, of any siblings, and the perpetrator, and relevant dispositional information regarding such
24 previous reports;

25 (5) Provide protective or preventive services to the family and child and to others in the
26 home to prevent abuse or neglect, to safeguard their health and welfare, and to help preserve and
27 stabilize the family whenever possible. The juvenile court shall cooperate with the division in
28 providing such services;

29 (6) Collaborate with the community to identify comprehensive local services and assure
30 access to those services for children and families where there is risk of abuse or neglect;

31 (7) Maintain a record which contains the facts ascertained which support the
32 determination as well as the facts that do not support the determination;

33 **(8) Whenever available and appropriate, contract for the provision of children's**
34 **services through children's services providers and agencies in the community; except that**
35 **the state shall be the sole provider of child abuse and neglect hotline services, the initial**
36 **child abuse and neglect investigation, and the initial family assessment. The division shall**
37 **attempt to seek input from child welfare service providers in completing the initial family**
38 **assessment. In all legal proceedings involving children in the custody of the division, the**
39 **division shall be represented in court by either division personnel or persons with whom**
40 **the division contracts with for such legal representation. All children's services providers**
41 **and agencies shall be subject to criminal background checks pursuant to chapter 43,**
42 **RSMo, and shall submit names of all employees to the family care safety registry.**

43

44 As used in this subsection, "report" includes any telephone call made pursuant to section
45 210.145.

46 [4. By January 1, 1998, the division of family services shall submit documentation to the
47 speaker of the house of representatives and the president pro tem of the senate on the success or
48 failure of the child protection system established in this section. The general assembly may
49 recommend statewide implementation or cancellation of the child protection system based on
50 the success or failure of the system established in this section.

51 5. The documentation required by subsection 4 of this section shall include an
52 independent evaluation of the child protection system completed according to accepted, objective
53 research principles.]

 210.110. As used in sections 210.109 to 210.165, and sections 210.180 to 210.183, the
2 following terms mean:

3 (1) "Abuse", any physical injury, sexual abuse, or emotional abuse inflicted on a child
4 other than by accidental means by those responsible for the child's care, custody, and control,
5 except that discipline including spanking, administered in a reasonable manner, shall not be
6 construed to be abuse;

7 (2) "Central registry", a registry of persons where the division has found probable cause
8 to believe **prior to the effective date of this section or by a preponderance of the evidence**
9 **after the effective date of this section** or a court has substantiated through court adjudication
10 that the individual has committed child abuse or neglect or the person has pled guilty or has been
11 found guilty of a crime pursuant to section 565.020, 565.021, 565.023, 565.024 or 565.050,
12 RSMo, if the victim is a child less than eighteen years of age, section 566.030 or 566.060,
13 RSMo, if the victim is a child less than eighteen years of age, or other crime pursuant to chapter
14 566, RSMo, if the victim is a child less than eighteen years of age and the perpetrator is
15 twenty-one years of age or older, section 567.050, RSMo, if the victim is a child less than

16 eighteen years of age, section 568.020, 568.030, 568.045, 568.050, 568.060, 568.080, or
17 568.090, RSMo, section 573.025 or 573.035, RSMo, or an attempt to commit any such crimes.

18 **Any persons placed on the registry prior to the effective date of this section, shall remain**
19 **on the registry for the duration of time required by section 210.152;**

20 (3) "Child", any person, regardless of physical or mental condition, under eighteen years
21 of age;

22 (4) **"Children's services providers and agencies", any public, quasi-public, or**
23 **private entity with the appropriate and relevant training and expertise in delivering**
24 **services to children and their families as determined by the children's division, and capable**
25 **of providing direct services and other family services for children in the custody of the**
26 **children's division or any such entities or agencies that are receiving state moneys for such**
27 **services;**

28 (5) "Director", the director of the Missouri **children's** division [of family] **within the**
29 **department of social** services;

30 [(5)] (6) "Division", the Missouri **children's** division [of family] **within the department**
31 **of social** services;

32 [(6)] (7) "Family assessment and services", an approach to be developed by the
33 **children's** division [of family services] which will provide for a prompt assessment of a child
34 who has been reported to the division as a victim of abuse or neglect by a person responsible for
35 that child's care, custody or control and of that child's family, including risk of abuse and neglect
36 and, if necessary, the provision of community-based services to reduce the risk and support the
37 family;

38 (8) **"Family support team meeting" or "team meeting", a meeting convened by the**
39 **division or children's services provider in behalf of the family and/or child for the purpose**
40 **of determining service and treatment needs, determining the need for placement and**
41 **developing a plan for reunification or other permanency options, determining the**
42 **appropriate placement of the child, evaluating case progress, and establishing and revising**
43 **the case plan;**

44 [(7)] (9) "Investigation", the collection of physical and verbal evidence to determine if
45 a child has been abused or neglected;

46 [(8)] (10) "Jail or detention center personnel", employees and volunteers working in any
47 premises or institution where incarceration, evaluation, care, treatment or rehabilitation is
48 provided to persons who are being held under custody of the law;

49 [(9)] (11) "Neglect", failure to provide, by those responsible for the care, custody, and
50 control of the child, the proper or necessary support, education as required by law, nutrition or
51 medical, surgical, or any other care necessary for the child's well-being;

52 [(10)] (12) "Probable cause", available facts when viewed in the light of surrounding
53 circumstances which would cause a reasonable person to believe a child was abused or
54 neglected;

55 [(11)] (13) "**Preponderance of the evidence**", that degree of evidence that is of
56 **greater weight or more convincing than the evidence which is offered in opposition to it or**
57 **evidence which as a whole shows the fact to be proved to be more probable than not;**

58 (14) "Report", the communication of an allegation of child abuse or neglect to the
59 division pursuant to section 210.115;

60 [(12)] (15) "Those responsible for the care, custody, and control of the child", those
61 included but not limited to the parents or guardian of a child, other members of the child's
62 household, or those exercising supervision over a child for any part of a twenty-four-hour day.
63 Those responsible for the care, custody and control shall also include any adult who, based on
64 relationship to the parents of the child, members of the child's household or the family, has
65 access to the child.

210.111. By January 1, 2005, the children's division shall identify all children in the
2 **custody of the division currently receiving foster care services and shall report to the**
3 **general assembly the type of foster care being provided, including but not limited to care**
4 **provided in a licensed foster care home, institutional setting, residential setting,**
5 **independent living setting, or kinship care setting, and the status of all such children.**
6 **Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring the division to disclose the identity**
7 **or precise location of any child in the custody of the division.**

210.112. 1. It is the policy of this state and its agencies to implement a foster care
2 **and child protection and welfare system focused on providing the highest quality of**
3 **services and outcomes for children and their families. The department of social services**
4 **shall implement such system subject to the following principles:**

5 (1) **The safety and welfare of children is paramount;**

6 (2) **Providers of direct services to children and their families will be evaluated in a**
7 **uniform and consistent basis;**

8 (3) **Services to children and their families shall be provided in a timely manner to**
9 **maximize the opportunity for successful outcomes; and**

10 (4) **Any provider of direct services to children and families shall have the**
11 **appropriate and relevant training, education, and expertise to provide the highest quality**
12 **of services possible which shall be consistent with the federal standards, but not less than**
13 **the standards and policies used by the children's division as of January 1, 2004.**

14 **2. On or before July 1, 2005, and subject to appropriations, the children's division**
15 **and any other state agency deemed necessary by the division shall, in consultation with the**

16 **community and providers of services, enter into and implement contracts with qualified**
17 **children's services providers and agencies to provide a comprehensive and deliberate**
18 **system of service delivery for children and their families. Contracts shall be awarded**
19 **through a competitive process and provided by children's services providers and agencies**
20 **currently contracting with the state to provide such services and by public and private not-**
21 **for-profit or limited liability corporations owned exclusively by not-for-profit corporations**
22 **children's services providers and agencies which have:**

23 **(1) A proven record of providing child welfare services within the state of Missouri**
24 **which shall be consistent with the federal standards, but not less than the standards and**
25 **policies used by the children's division as of January 1, 2004; and**

26 **(2) The ability to provide a range of child welfare services, which may include case**
27 **management services, family-centered services, foster and adoptive parent recruitment and**
28 **retention, residential care, in-home services, foster care services, adoption services, relative**
29 **care case management, planned permanent living services, and family reunification**
30 **services.**

31 **No contracts shall be issued for services related to the child abuse and neglect hotline,**
32 **investigations of alleged abuse and neglect, and initial family assessments. Any contracts**
33 **entered into by the division shall be in accordance with all federal laws and regulations,**
34 **and shall not result in the loss of federal funding. Such children's services providers and**
35 **agencies under contract with the division shall be subject to all federal, state, and local laws**
36 **and regulations relating to the provision of such services, and shall be subject to oversight**
37 **and inspection by appropriate state agencies to assure compliance with standards which**
38 **shall be consistent with the federal standards, but not less than the standards and policies**
39 **used by the children's division as of January 1, 2004.**

40 **3. In entering into and implementing contracts under subsection 2 of this section,**
41 **the division shall consider and direct their efforts towards geographic areas of the state,**
42 **including Greene County, where eligible direct children's services providers and agencies**
43 **are currently available and capable of providing a broad range of services, including case**
44 **management services, family-centered services, foster and adoptive parent recruitment and**
45 **retention, residential care, family preservation services, foster care services, adoption**
46 **services, relative care case management, other planned living arrangements, and family**
47 **reunification services consistent with federal guidelines. Nothing in this subsection shall**
48 **prohibit the division from contracting on an as-needed basis for any individual child**
49 **welfare service listed above.**

50 **4. The contracts entered into under this section shall assure that:**

51 **(1) Child welfare services shall be delivered to a child and the child's family by**
52 **professionals who have substantial and relevant training, education, or competencies**
53 **otherwise demonstrated in the area of children and family services;**

54 **(2) Children's services providers and agencies shall be evaluated by the division**
55 **based on objective, consistent, and performance-based criteria;**

56 **(3) Any case management services provided shall be subject to a case management**
57 **plan established under subsection 5 of this section which is consistent with all relevant**
58 **federal guidelines. The case management plan shall focus on attaining permanency in**
59 **children's living conditions to the greatest extent possible and shall include concurrent**
60 **planning and independent living where appropriate in accordance with the best interests**
61 **of each child served and considering relevant factors applicable to each individual case as**
62 **provided by law, including:**

63 **(a) The interaction and interrelationship of a child with the child's foster parents,**
64 **biological or adoptive parents, siblings, and any other person who may significantly affect**
65 **the child's best interests;**

66 **(b) A child's adjustment to his or her foster home, school, and community;**

67 **(c) The mental and physical health of all individuals involved, including any history**
68 **of abuse of or by any individuals involved; and**

69 **(d) The needs of the child for a continuing relationship with the child's biological**
70 **or adoptive parents and the ability and willingness of the child's biological or adoptive**
71 **parents to actively perform their functions as parents with regard to the needs of the child;**

72 **(4) The delivery system shall have sufficient flexibility to take into account children**
73 **and families on a case-by-case basis;**

74 **(5) The delivery system shall provide a mechanism for the assessment of strategies**
75 **to work with children and families immediately upon entry into the system to maximize**
76 **permanency and successful outcome in the shortest time possible and shall include**
77 **concurrent planning. Outcome measures for private and public agencies shall be equal for**
78 **each program; and**

79 **(6) Payment to the children's services providers and agencies shall be made based**
80 **on the reasonable costs of services, including responsibilities necessary to execute the**
81 **contract. Contracts shall provide incentives in addition to the costs of services provided in**
82 **recognition of accomplishment of the case goals and the corresponding cost savings to the**
83 **state. The division shall promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this subdivision.**

84 **5. Contracts entered into under this section shall require that a case management**
85 **plan consistent with all relevant federal guidelines shall be developed for each child at the**
86 **earliest time after the initial investigation, but in no event longer than fourteen days after**

87 **the initial investigation or referral to the contractor by the division. Such case management**
88 **plan shall be presented to the court and be the foundation of service delivery to the child**
89 **and family. The case management plan shall, at a minimum, include:**

- 90 **(1) An outcome target based on the child and family situation achieving permanency**
91 **or independent living, where appropriate;**
92 **(2) Services authorized and necessary to facilitate the outcome target;**
93 **(3) Timeframes in which services will be delivered; and**
94 **(4) Necessary evaluations and reporting.**

95 **In addition to any visits and assessments required under case management, services to be**
96 **provided by a public or private children's services provider under the specific case**
97 **management plan may include family-centered services, foster and adoptive parent**
98 **recruitment and retention, residential care, in-home services, foster care services, adoption**
99 **services, relative care case services, planned permanent living services, and family**
100 **reunification services. In all cases, an appropriate level of services shall be provided to the**
101 **child and family after permanency is achieved to assure a continued successful outcome.**

102 **6. On or before July 15, 2006, and each July fifteenth thereafter that the project is**
103 **in operation, the division shall submit a report to the general assembly which shall include:**

- 104 **(1) Details about the specifics of the contracts, including the number of children and**
105 **families served, the cost to the state for contracting such services, the current status of the**
106 **children and families served, an assessment of the quality of services provided and**
107 **outcomes achieved, and an overall evaluation of the project; and**
108 **(2) Any recommendations regarding the continuation or possible statewide**
109 **implementation of such project; and**
110 **(3) Any information or recommendations directly related to the provision of direct**
111 **services for children and their families that any of the contracting children's services**
112 **providers and agencies request to have included in the report.**

113 **7. The division shall accept as prima facie evidence of completion of the**
114 **requirements for licensure under sections 210.481 to 210.511 proof that an agency is**
115 **accredited by any of the following nationally recognized bodies: the Council on**
116 **Accreditation of Services, Children and Families, Inc.; the Joint Commission on**
117 **Accreditation of Hospitals; or the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.**
118 **The division shall not require any further evidence of qualification for licensure if such**
119 **proof of voluntary accreditation is submitted.**

120 **8. By February 1, 2005, the children's division shall promulgate and have in effect**
121 **rules to implement the provisions of this section, and pursuant to this section, shall define**
122 **implementation plans and dates. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in**

123 **section 536.010, RSMo, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall**
124 **become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter**
125 **536, RSMo, and, if applicable, section 536.028, RSMo. This section and chapter 536,**
126 **RSMo, are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly**
127 **pursuant to chapter 536, RSMo, to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and**
128 **annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking**
129 **authority and any rule proposed or adopted after the effective date of this section shall be**
130 **invalid and void.**

210.113. It is the intent and goal of the general assembly to have the department
2 **attain accreditation by the Council for Accreditation for Families and Children's Services**
3 **within five years of the effective date of this section.**

210.117. No child taken into the custody of the state shall be reunited with a parent
2 **or placed in a home in which the parent or any person residing in the home has been found**
3 **guilty of, or pled guilty to, a felony violation of chapter 566, RSMo, except for section**
4 **566.034, RSMo, when a child was the victim, or a violation of section 568.020, 568.045,**
5 **568.060, 568.065, 568.070, 568.080, 568.090, or 568.175, RSMo, except for subdivision (1)**
6 **of subsection 1 of section 568.060, RSMo, when a child was the victim, or an offense**
7 **committed in another state when a child is the victim, that would be a felony violation of**
8 **chapter 566, RSMo, except for section 566.034, RSMo, or a violation of section 568.020,**
9 **568.045, 568.060, 568.065, 568.070, 568.080, 568.090, or 568.175, RSMo, except for**
10 **subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of section 568.060, RSMo, if committed in Missouri;**
11 **provided however, nothing in this section shall preclude the division from exercising its**
12 **discretion regarding the placement of child in a home in which the parent or any person**
13 **residing in the home has been found guilty of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any**
14 **offense excepted or excluded in this section.**

210.127. 1. If the location or identity of the biological parent or parents of a child
2 **in the custody of the division is unknown, the children's division shall utilize all reasonable**
3 **and effective means available to conduct a diligent search for the biological parent or**
4 **parents of such child.**

5 **2. For purposes of this section, "diligent search" means the efforts of the division,**
6 **or an entity under contract with the division, to locate a biological parent whose identity**
7 **or location is unknown, initiated as soon as the division is made aware of the existence of**
8 **such parent, with the search progress reported at each court hearing until the parent is**
9 **either identified and located or the court excuses further search.**

210.145. 1. The division shall [establish and maintain] develop protocols which give
2 **priority to:**

3 **(1) Ensuring the well-being and safety of the child in instances where child abuse**
4 **or neglect has been alleged;**

5 **(2) Promoting the preservation and reunification of children and families consistent**
6 **with state and federal law;**

7 **(3) Providing due process for those accused of child abuse or neglect; and**

8 **(4) Maintaining** an information system operating at all times, capable of receiving and
9 maintaining reports. This information system shall have the ability to receive reports over a
10 single, statewide toll-free number. Such information system shall maintain the results of all
11 investigations, family assessments and services, and other relevant information.

12 **2. The division shall utilize structured decision-making protocols for classification**
13 **purposes of all child abuse and neglect reports. The protocols developed by the division**
14 **shall give priority to ensuring the well-being and safety of the child. All child abuse and**
15 **neglect reports shall be initiated within twenty-four hours and shall be classified based**
16 **upon the reported risk and injury to the child. The division shall promulgate rules**
17 **regarding the structured decision-making protocols to be utilized for all child abuse and**
18 **neglect reports.**

19 **3. Upon receipt of a report, the division shall determine if the report merits**
20 **investigation, including reports which if true would constitute a suspected violation of any**
21 **of the following: section 565.020, 565.021, 565.023, 565.024, or 565.050, RSMo, if the victim**
22 **is a child less than eighteen years of age, section 566.030 or 566.060, RSMo, if the victim**
23 **is a child less than eighteen years of age, or other crimes under chapter 566, RSMo, if the**
24 **victim is a child less than eighteen years of age and the perpetrator is twenty-one years of**
25 **age or older, section 567.050, RSMo, if the victim is a child less than eighteen years of age,**
26 **section 568.020, 568.030, 568.045, 568.050, 568.060, 568.080, or 568.090, RSMo, section**
27 **573.025, 573.035, 573.037, or 573.040, RSMo, or an attempt to commit any such crimes.**
28 **The division shall immediately communicate [such report] all reports that merit investigation**
29 to its appropriate local office and any relevant information as may be contained in the
30 information system. The local division staff shall determine, through the use of protocols
31 developed by the division, whether an investigation or the family assessment and services
32 approach should be used to respond to the allegation. The protocols developed by the division
33 shall give priority to ensuring the well-being and safety of the child.

34 **[3.] 4. The local office shall contact the appropriate law enforcement agency immediately**
35 **upon receipt of a report which division personnel determine merits an investigation[, or, which,**
36 **if true, would constitute a suspected violation of any of the following: section 565.020, 565.021,**
37 **565.023, 565.024 or 565.050, RSMo, if the victim is a child less than eighteen years of age,**
38 **section 566.030 or 566.060, RSMo, if the victim is a child less than eighteen years of age, or**

39 other crime under chapter 566, RSMo, if the victim is a child less than eighteen years of age and
40 the perpetrator is twenty-one years of age or older, section 567.050, RSMo, if the victim is a
41 child less than eighteen years of age, section 568.020, 568.030, 568.045, 568.050, 568.060,
42 568.080, or 568.090, RSMo, section 573.025, 573.037 or 573.045, RSMo, or an attempt to
43 commit any such crimes. The local office shall] **and** provide such agency with a detailed
44 description of the report received. In such cases the local division office shall request the
45 assistance of the local law enforcement agency in all aspects of the investigation of the
46 complaint. The appropriate law enforcement agency shall either assist the division in the
47 investigation or provide the division, within twenty-four hours, an explanation in writing
48 detailing the reasons why it is unable to assist.

49 [4.] **5.** The local office of the division shall cause an investigation or family assessment
50 and services approach to be initiated [immediately or no later than within twenty-four hours of
51 receipt of the report from the division] **in accordance with the protocols established in**
52 **subsection 2 of this section**, except in cases where the sole basis for the report is educational
53 neglect. If the report indicates that educational neglect is the only complaint and there is no
54 suspicion of other neglect or abuse, the investigation shall be initiated within seventy-two hours
55 of receipt of the report. If the report indicates the child is in danger of serious physical harm or
56 threat to life, an investigation shall include direct observation of the subject child within
57 twenty-four hours of the receipt of the report. Local law enforcement shall take all necessary
58 steps to facilitate such direct observation. If the parents of the child are not the alleged abusers,
59 a parent of the child must be notified prior to the child being interviewed by the division. **If the**
60 **abuse is alleged to have occurred in a school or child-care facility** the division shall not meet
61 with the child [at the child's school or child-care facility] **in any school building or child-care**
62 **facility building where abuse of such child is alleged to have occurred.** When the child is
63 reported absent from the residence, the location and the well-being of the child shall be verified.
64 **For purposes of this subsection, "child-care facility" shall have the same meaning as such**
65 **term is defined in section 210.201.**

66 [5.] **6.** The director of the division shall name at least one chief investigator for each
67 local division office, who shall direct the division response on any case involving a second or
68 subsequent incident regarding the same subject child or perpetrator. The duties of a chief
69 investigator shall include verification of direct observation of the subject child by the division
70 and shall ensure information regarding the status of an investigation is provided to the public
71 school district liaison. The public school district liaison shall develop protocol in conjunction
72 with the chief investigator to ensure information regarding an investigation is shared with
73 appropriate school personnel. The superintendent of each school district shall designate a
74 specific person or persons to act as the public school district liaison. Should the subject child

75 attend a nonpublic school the chief investigator shall notify the school principal of the
76 investigation. Upon notification of an investigation, all information received by the public
77 school district liaison or the school shall be subject to the provisions of the federal Family
78 Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C., Section 1232g, and federal rule 34
79 C.F.R., Part 99.

80 [6.] 7. The investigation shall include but not be limited to the nature, extent, and cause
81 of the abuse or neglect; the identity and age of the person responsible for the abuse or neglect;
82 the names and conditions of other children in the home, if any; the home environment and the
83 relationship of the subject child to the parents or other persons responsible for the child's care;
84 any indication of incidents of physical violence against any other household or family member;
85 and other pertinent data.

86 [7.] 8. When a report has been made by a person required to report under section
87 210.115, the division shall contact the person who made such report within forty-eight hours of
88 the receipt of the report in order to ensure that full information has been received and to obtain
89 any additional information or medical records, or both, that may be pertinent.

90 [8.] 9. Upon completion of the investigation, if the division suspects that the report was
91 made maliciously or for the purpose of harassment, the division shall refer the report and any
92 evidence of malice or harassment to the local prosecuting or circuit attorney.

93 [9.] 10. Multidisciplinary teams shall be used whenever conducting the investigation as
94 determined by the division in conjunction with local law enforcement. Multidisciplinary teams
95 shall be used in providing protective or preventive social services, including the services of law
96 enforcement, a liaison of the local public school, the juvenile officer, the juvenile court, and
97 other agencies, both public and private.

98 **11. For all family support team meetings involving an alleged victim of child abuse**
99 **or neglect, the parents, legal counsel for the parents, foster parents, the legal guardian or**
100 **custodian of the child, the guardian ad litem for the child, and the volunteer advocate for**
101 **the child shall be provided notice and be permitted to attend all such meetings. Family**
102 **members, other than alleged perpetrators, or other community informal or formal service**
103 **providers that provide significant support to the child and other individuals may also be**
104 **invited at the discretion of the parents of the child. In addition, the parents, the legal**
105 **counsel for the parents, the legal guardian or custodian and the foster parents may request**
106 **that other individuals, other than alleged perpetrators, be permitted to attend such team**
107 **meetings. Once a person is provided notice of or attends such team meetings, the division**
108 **or the convenor of the meeting shall provide such persons with notice of all such**
109 **subsequent meetings involving the child. Families may determine whether individuals**
110 **invited at their discretion shall continue to be invited.**

111 [10.] **12.** If the appropriate local division personnel determine after an investigation has
112 begun that completing an investigation is not appropriate, the division shall conduct a family
113 assessment and services approach. The division shall provide written notification to local law
114 enforcement prior to terminating any investigative process. The reason for the termination of
115 the investigative process shall be documented in the record of the division and the written
116 notification submitted to local law enforcement. Such notification shall not preclude nor prevent
117 any investigation by law enforcement.

118 [11.] **13.** If the appropriate local division personnel determines to use a family
119 assessment and services approach, the division shall:

120 (1) Assess any service needs of the family. The assessment of risk and service needs
121 shall be based on information gathered from the family and other sources;

122 (2) Provide services which are voluntary and time-limited unless it is determined by the
123 division based on the assessment of risk that there will be a high risk of abuse or neglect if the
124 family refuses to accept the services. The division shall identify services for families where it
125 is determined that the child is at high risk of future abuse or neglect. The division shall
126 thoroughly document in the record its attempt to provide voluntary services and the reasons these
127 services are important to reduce the risk of future abuse or neglect to the child. If the family
128 continues to refuse voluntary services or the child needs to be protected, the division may
129 commence an investigation;

130 (3) Commence an immediate investigation if at any time during the family assessment
131 and services approach the division determines that an investigation, as delineated in sections
132 210.109 to 210.183, is required. The division staff who have conducted the assessment may
133 remain involved in the provision of services to the child and family;

134 (4) Document at the time the case is closed, the outcome of the family assessment and
135 services approach, any service provided and the removal of risk to the child, if it existed.

136 [12.] **14.** Within thirty days of an oral report of abuse or neglect, the local office shall
137 update the information in the information system. The information system shall contain, at a
138 minimum, the determination made by the division as a result of the investigation, identifying
139 information on the subjects of the report, those responsible for the care of the subject child and
140 other relevant dispositional information. The division shall complete all investigations within
141 thirty days, unless good cause for the failure to complete the investigation is documented in the
142 information system. If the investigation is not completed within thirty days, the information
143 system shall be updated at regular intervals and upon the completion of the investigation. The
144 information in the information system shall be updated to reflect any subsequent findings,
145 including any changes to the findings based on an administrative or judicial hearing on the
146 matter.

147 [13.] 15. A person required to report under section 210.115 to the division **and any**
148 **person making a report of child abuse or neglect made to the division which is not made**
149 **anonymously** shall be informed by the division of his **or her** right to obtain information
150 concerning the disposition of his or her report. Such person shall receive, from the local office,
151 if requested, information on the general disposition of his or her report. [A] **Such** person
152 [required to report to the division pursuant to section 210.115] may receive, if requested, findings
153 and information concerning the case. Such release of information shall be at the discretion of
154 the director based upon a review of the [mandated] reporter's ability to assist in protecting the
155 child or the potential harm to the child or other children within the family. The local office shall
156 respond to the request within forty-five days. The findings shall be made available to the
157 [mandated] reporter within five days of the outcome of the investigation. **If the report is**
158 **determined to be unsubstantiated, the reporter may request that the report be referred by**
159 **the division to the office of child advocate for children's protection and services established**
160 **in sections 37.700 to 37.730, RSMo. Upon request by a reporter under this subsection, the**
161 **division shall refer an unsubstantiated report of child abuse or neglect to the office of child**
162 **advocate for children's protection and services.**

163 [14.] 16. In any judicial proceeding involving the custody of a child the fact that a report
164 may have been made pursuant to sections 210.109 to 210.183 shall not be admissible.
165 However[,]:

166 (1) Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the introduction of evidence from
167 independent sources to support the allegations that may have caused a report to have been made;
168 **and**

169 (2) **The court may on its own motion, or shall if requested by a party to the**
170 **proceeding, make an inquiry not on the record with the children's division to determine**
171 **if such a report has been made. If a report has been made, the court may stay the custody**
172 **proceeding until the children's division completes its investigation.**

173 [15.] 17. In any judicial proceeding involving the custody of a child where the court
174 determines that the child is in need of services pursuant to subdivision (d) of subsection 1 of
175 section 211.031, RSMo, and has taken jurisdiction, the child's parent, guardian or custodian shall
176 not be entered into the registry.

177 [16.] 18. The **children's** division [of family services] is hereby granted the authority to
178 promulgate rules and regulations pursuant to the provisions of section 207.021, RSMo, and
179 chapter 536, RSMo, to carry out the provisions of sections 210.109 to 210.183.

180 [17.] 19. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, RSMo,
181 that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it
182 complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536, RSMo, and, if applicable,

183 section 536.028, RSMo. This section and chapter 536, RSMo, are nonseverable and if any of
184 the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536, RSMo, to review, to delay
185 the effective date or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then
186 the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2000, shall
187 be invalid and void.

**210.147. 1. Except as otherwise provided by law, all information provided at any
2 family support team meeting held in relation to the removal of a child from the child's
3 home is confidential; except that:**

**4 (1) Any parent or party may waive confidentiality for himself or herself to the
5 extent permitted by law; and**

**6 (2) Any parent of the child shall have an absolute right to video and/or audio tape
7 such team meetings to the extent permitted by law; and**

**8 (3) No parent or party shall be required to sign a confidentiality agreement before
9 testifying or providing information at such team meetings. Any person, other than a
10 parent or party, who does not agree to maintain confidentiality of the information provided
11 at such team meetings may be excluded from all or any portion of such team meetings
12 during which such person is not testifying or providing information.**

**13 2. The division shall be responsible for developing a form to be signed at the
14 conclusion of any team meeting held in relation to a child removed from the home and
15 placed in the custody of the state that reflects the core commitments made by the children's
16 division or the convenor of the team meeting and the parents of the child or any other
17 party. The content of the form shall be consistent with service agreements or case plans
18 required by statute, but not the specific address of the child; whether the child shall remain
19 in current placement or be moved to a new placement; visitation schedule for the child's
20 family; and any additional core commitments. Any dissenting views shall be recorded and
21 attested to on such form. The parents and any other party shall be provided with a copy
22 of the signed document.**

**210.150. 1. The children's division [of family services] shall ensure the confidentiality
2 of all reports and records made pursuant to sections 210.109 to 210.183 and maintained by the
3 division, its local offices, the central registry, and other appropriate persons, officials, and
4 institutions pursuant to sections 210.109 to 210.183. To protect the rights of the family and the
5 child named in the report as a victim, the children's division [of family services] shall establish
6 guidelines which will ensure that any disclosure of information concerning the abuse and neglect
7 involving that child is made only to persons or agencies that have a right to such information.
8 The division may require persons to make written requests for access to records maintained by
9 the division. The division shall only release information to persons who have a right to such**

10 information. The division shall notify persons receiving information pursuant to subdivisions
11 (2), (7), (8) and (9) of subsection 2 of this section of the purpose for which the information is
12 released and of the penalties for unauthorized dissemination of information. Such information
13 shall be used only for the purpose for which the information is released.

14 2. Only the following persons shall have access to investigation records contained in the
15 central registry:

16 (1) Appropriate federal, state or local criminal justice agency personnel, or any agent of
17 such entity, with a need for such information under the law to protect children from abuse or
18 neglect;

19 (2) A physician or a designated agent who reasonably believes that the child being
20 examined may be abused or neglected;

21 (3) Appropriate staff of the division and of its local offices, including interdisciplinary
22 teams which are formed to assist the division in investigation, evaluation and treatment of child
23 abuse and neglect cases or a multidisciplinary provider of professional treatment services for a
24 child referred to the provider;

25 (4) Any child named in the report as a victim, or a legal representative, or the parent, if
26 not the alleged perpetrator, or guardian of such person when such person is a minor, or is
27 mentally ill or otherwise incompetent, but the names of reporters shall not be furnished to
28 persons in this category. Prior to the release of any identifying information, the division [of
29 family services] shall determine if the release of such identifying information may place a
30 person's life or safety in danger. If the division makes the determination that a person's life or
31 safety may be in danger, the identifying information shall not be released. The division shall
32 provide a method for confirming or certifying that a designee is acting on behalf of a subject;

33 (5) Any alleged perpetrator named in the report, but the names of reporters shall not be
34 furnished to persons in this category. Prior to the release of any identifying information, the
35 division [of family services] shall determine if the release of such identifying information may
36 place a person's life or safety in danger. If the division makes the determination that a person's
37 life or safety may be in danger, the identifying information shall not be released. However, the
38 investigation reports will not be released to any alleged perpetrator with pending criminal
39 charges arising out of the facts and circumstances named in the investigation records until an
40 indictment is returned or an information filed;

41 (6) A grand jury, juvenile officer, prosecuting attorney, law enforcement officer involved
42 in the investigation of child abuse or neglect, juvenile court or other court conducting abuse or
43 neglect or child protective proceedings **or child custody proceedings**, and other federal, state
44 and local government entities, or any agent of such entity, with a need for such information in
45 order to carry out its responsibilities under the law to protect children from abuse or neglect;

46 (7) Any person engaged in a bona fide research purpose, with the permission of the
47 director; provided, however, that no information identifying the child named in the report as a
48 victim or the reporters shall be made available to the researcher, unless the identifying
49 information is essential to the research or evaluation and the child named in the report as a victim
50 or, if the child is less than eighteen years of age, through the child's parent, or guardian provides
51 written permission;

52 (8) Any child-care facility; child-placing agency; residential-care facility, including
53 group homes; juvenile courts; public or private elementary schools; public or private secondary
54 schools; or any other public or private agency exercising temporary supervision over a child or
55 providing or having care or custody of a child who may request an examination of the central
56 registry from the division for all employees and volunteers or prospective employees and
57 volunteers, who do or will provide services or care to children. Any agency or business
58 recognized by the division [of family services] or business which provides training and places
59 or recommends people for employment or for volunteers in positions where they will provide
60 services or care to children may request the division to provide an examination of the central
61 registry. Such agency or business shall provide verification of its status as a recognized agency.
62 Requests for examinations shall be made to the division director or the director's designee in
63 writing by the chief administrative officer of the above homes, centers, public and private
64 elementary schools, public and private secondary schools, agencies, or courts. The division shall
65 respond in writing to that officer. The response shall include information pertaining to the nature
66 and disposition of any report or reports of abuse or neglect revealed by the examination of the
67 central registry. This response shall not include any identifying information regarding any person
68 other than the alleged perpetrator of the abuse or neglect;

69 (9) Any parent or legal guardian who inquires about a child abuse or neglect report
70 involving a specific person or child-care facility who does or may provide services or care to a
71 child of the person requesting the information. Request for examinations shall be made to the
72 division director or the director's designee, in writing, by the parent or legal guardian of the child
73 and shall be accompanied with a signed and notarized release form from the person who does
74 or may provide care or services to the child. The notarized release form shall include the full
75 name, date of birth and Social Security number of the person who does or may provide care or
76 services to a child. The response shall include information pertaining to the nature and
77 disposition of any report or reports of abuse or neglect revealed by the examination of the central
78 registry. This response shall not include any identifying information regarding any person other
79 than the alleged perpetrator of the abuse or neglect. The response shall be given within ten
80 working days of the time it was received by the division;

81 (10) Any person who inquires about a child abuse or neglect report involving a specific
82 child-care facility, child-placing agency, residential-care facility, public and private elementary
83 schools, public and private secondary schools, juvenile court or other state agency. The
84 information available to these persons is limited to the nature and disposition of any report
85 contained in the central registry and shall not include any identifying information pertaining to
86 any person mentioned in the report;

87 (11) Any state agency acting pursuant to statutes regarding a license of any person,
88 institution, or agency which provides care for or services to children;

89 (12) Any child fatality review panel established pursuant to section 210.192 or any state
90 child fatality review panel established pursuant to section 210.195;

91 (13) Any person who is a tenure-track or full-time research faculty member at an
92 accredited institution of higher education engaged in scholarly research, with the permission of
93 the director. Prior to the release of any identifying information, the director shall require the
94 researcher to present a plan for maintaining the confidentiality of the identifying information.
95 The researcher shall be prohibited from releasing the identifying information of individual cases.

96 3. Only the following persons shall have access to records maintained by the division
97 pursuant to section 210.152 for which the division has received a report of child abuse and
98 neglect and which the division has determined that there is insufficient evidence or in which the
99 division proceeded with the family assessment and services approach:

100 (1) Appropriate staff of the division;

101 (2) Any child named in the report as a victim, or a legal representative, or the parent or
102 guardian of such person when such person is a minor, or is mentally ill or otherwise incompetent.
103 The names or other identifying information of reporters shall not be furnished to persons in this
104 category. Prior to the release of any identifying information, the division [of family services]
105 shall determine if the release of such identifying information may place a person's life or safety
106 in danger. If the division makes the determination that a person's life or safety may be in danger,
107 the identifying information shall not be released. The division shall provide for a method for
108 confirming or certifying that a designee is acting on behalf of a subject;

109 (3) Any alleged perpetrator named in the report, but the names of reporters shall not be
110 furnished to persons in this category. Prior to the release of any identifying information, the
111 division [of family services] shall determine if the release of such identifying information may
112 place a person's life or safety in danger. If the division makes the determination that a person's
113 life or safety may be in danger, the identifying information shall not be released. However, the
114 investigation reports will not be released to any alleged perpetrator with pending criminal
115 charges arising out of the facts and circumstances named in the investigation records until an
116 indictment is returned or an information filed;

117 (4) Any child fatality review panel established pursuant to section 210.192 or any state
118 child fatality review panel established pursuant to section 210.195;

119 (5) Appropriate criminal justice agency personnel or juvenile officer;

120 (6) Multidisciplinary agency or individual including a physician or physician's designee
121 who is providing services to the child or family, with the consent of the parent or guardian of the
122 child or legal representative of the child;

123 (7) Any person engaged in bona fide research purpose, with the permission of the
124 director; provided, however, that no information identifying the subjects of the reports or the
125 reporters shall be made available to the researcher, unless the identifying information is essential
126 to the research or evaluation and the subject, or if a child, through the child's parent or guardian,
127 provides written permission.

128 4. Any person who knowingly violates the provisions of this section, or who permits or
129 encourages the unauthorized dissemination of information contained in the information system
130 or the central registry and in reports and records made pursuant to sections 210.109 to 210.183,
131 shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

132 5. Nothing in this section shall preclude the release of findings or information about
133 cases which resulted in a child fatality or near fatality. Such release is at the sole discretion of
134 the director of the department of social services, based upon a review of the potential harm to
135 other children within the immediate family.

210.152. 1. All identifying information, including telephone reports reported pursuant
2 to section 210.145, relating to reports of abuse or neglect received by the division shall be
3 retained by the division and removed from the records of the division as follows:

4 (1) For investigation reports contained in the central registry, identifying information
5 shall be retained by the division;

6 (2) For investigation reports initiated by a person required to report pursuant to section
7 210.115, where insufficient evidence of abuse or neglect is found by the division, identifying
8 information shall be retained for [ten] **five** years from the date of the report. For all other
9 investigation reports where insufficient evidence of abuse or neglect is found by the division,
10 identifying information shall be retained for two years from the date of the report. Such report
11 shall include any exculpatory evidence known by the division, including exculpatory evidence
12 obtained after the closing of the case. At the end of such two-year period, the identifying
13 information shall be removed from the records of the division and destroyed;

14 (3) For reports where the division uses the family assessment and services approach,
15 identifying information shall be retained by the division;

16 (4) For reports in which the division is unable to locate the child alleged to have been
17 abused or neglected, identifying information shall be retained for ten years from the date of the
18 report and then shall be removed from the records of the division.

19 2. Within ninety days after receipt of a report of abuse or neglect that is investigated, the
20 alleged perpetrator named in the report and the parents of the child named in the report, if the
21 alleged perpetrator is not a parent, shall be notified in writing of any determination made by the
22 division based on the investigation. The notice shall advise either:

23 (1) That the division has determined **by a probable cause finding prior to the effective**
24 **date of this section or by a preponderance of the evidence after the effective date of this**
25 **section** that [there is probable cause to suspect] abuse or neglect exists and that the division shall
26 retain all identifying information regarding the abuse or neglect; that such information shall
27 remain confidential and will not be released except to law enforcement agencies, prosecuting or
28 circuit attorneys, or as provided in section 210.150; that the alleged perpetrator has sixty days
29 from the date of receipt of the notice to seek reversal of the division's determination through a
30 review by the child abuse and neglect review board as provided in subsection 3 of this section;
31 or

32 (2) [There is insufficient probable cause of abuse or neglect.] **That the division has not**
33 **made a probable cause finding or determined by a preponderance of the evidence that**
34 **abuse or neglect exists.**

35 3. Any person named in an investigation as a perpetrator who is aggrieved by a
36 determination of abuse or neglect by the division as provided in this section may seek an
37 administrative review by the child abuse and neglect review board pursuant to the provisions of
38 section 210.153. Such request for review shall be made within sixty days of notification of the
39 division's decision under this section. In those cases where criminal charges arising out of facts
40 of the investigation are pending, the request for review shall be made within sixty days from the
41 court's final disposition or dismissal of the charges.

42 4. In any such action for administrative review, the child abuse and neglect review board
43 shall sustain the division's determination if such determination [is] **was** supported by evidence
44 of probable cause **prior to the effective date of this section or is supported by a**
45 **preponderance of the evidence after the effective date of this section** and is not against the
46 weight of such evidence. The child abuse and neglect review board hearing shall be closed to
47 all persons except the parties, their attorneys and those persons providing testimony on behalf
48 of the parties.

49 5. If the alleged perpetrator is aggrieved by the decision of the child abuse and neglect
50 review board, the alleged perpetrator may seek de novo judicial review in the circuit court in the
51 county in which the alleged perpetrator resides and in circuits with split venue, in the venue in

52 which the alleged perpetrator resides, or in Cole County. If the alleged perpetrator is not a
53 resident of the state, proper venue shall be in Cole County. The case may be assigned to the
54 family court division where such a division has been established. The request for a judicial
55 review shall be made within sixty days of notification of the decision of the child abuse and
56 neglect review board decision. In reviewing such decisions, the circuit court shall provide the
57 alleged perpetrator the opportunity to appear and present testimony. The alleged perpetrator may
58 subpoena any witnesses except the alleged victim or the reporter. However, the circuit court
59 shall have the discretion to allow the parties to submit the case upon a stipulated record.

60 6. In any such action for administrative review, the child abuse and neglect review board
61 shall notify the child or the parent, guardian or legal representative of the child that a review has
62 been requested.

210.153. 1. There is hereby created in the department of social services the "Child
2 Abuse and Neglect Review Board", which shall provide an independent review of child abuse
3 and neglect determinations in instances in which the alleged perpetrator is aggrieved by the
4 decision of the **children's** division [of family services]. The division may establish more than
5 one board to assure timely review of the determination.

6 2. The board shall consist of nine members, who shall be appointed by the governor with
7 the advice and consent of the senate, and shall include:

- 8 (1) A physician, nurse or other medical professional;
9 (2) A licensed child or family psychologist, counselor or social worker;
10 (3) An attorney who has acted as a guardian ad litem or other attorney who has
11 represented a subject of a child abuse and neglect report;
12 (4) A representative from law enforcement or a juvenile office.

13 3. Other members of the board may be selected from:

- 14 (1) A person from another profession or field who has an interest in child abuse or
15 neglect;
16 (2) A college or university professor or elementary or secondary teacher;
17 (3) A child advocate;
18 (4) A parent, foster parent or grandparent.

19 4. The following persons may participate in a child abuse and neglect review board
20 review:

21 (1) Appropriate **children's** division [of family services] staff and legal counsel for the
22 department;

23 (2) The alleged perpetrator, who may be represented pro se or be represented by legal
24 counsel. The alleged perpetrator's presence is not required for the review to be conducted. The

25 alleged perpetrator may submit a written statement for the board's consideration in lieu of
26 personal appearance; and

27 (3) Witnesses providing information on behalf of the child, the alleged perpetrator or the
28 department. Witnesses shall only be allowed to attend that portion of the review in which they
29 are presenting information.

30 5. The members of the board shall serve without compensation, but shall receive
31 reimbursement for reasonable and necessary expenses actually incurred in the performance of
32 their duties.

33 6. All records and information compiled, obtained, prepared or maintained by the child
34 abuse and neglect review board in the course of any review shall be confidential information.

35 7. The department shall promulgate rules and regulations governing the operation of the
36 child abuse and neglect review board except as otherwise provided for in this section. These
37 rules and regulations shall, at a minimum, describe the length of terms, the selection of the
38 chairperson, confidentiality, notification of parties and time frames for the completion of the
39 review.

40 8. Findings of probable cause to suspect **prior to the effective date of this section or**
41 **findings by a preponderance of the evidence after the effective date of this section of** child
42 abuse and neglect by the division which are substantiated by court adjudication shall not be heard
43 by the child abuse and neglect review board.

210.160. 1. In every case involving an abused or neglected child which results in a
2 judicial proceeding, the judge shall appoint a guardian ad litem to appear for and represent:

3 (1) A child who is the subject of proceedings pursuant to sections 210.110 to 210.165,
4 sections 210.700 to 210.760, sections 211.442 to 211.487, RSMo, or sections 453.005 to
5 453.170, RSMo, or proceedings to determine custody or visitation rights under sections 452.375
6 to 452.410, RSMo; or

7 (2) A parent who is a minor, or who is a mentally ill person or otherwise incompetent,
8 and whose child is the subject of proceedings under sections 210.110 to 210.165, sections
9 210.700 to 210.760, sections 211.442 to 211.487, RSMo, or sections 453.005 to 453.170, RSMo.

10 2. The guardian ad litem shall be provided with all reports relevant to the case made to
11 or by any agency or person [and], shall have access to all records of such agencies or persons
12 relating to the child or such child's family members or placements of the child, **and upon**
13 **appointment by the court to a case, shall be informed of and have the right to attend any**
14 **and all family support team meetings involving the child.** Employees of the division, officers
15 of the court, and employees of any agency involved shall fully inform the guardian ad litem of
16 all aspects of the case of which they have knowledge or belief.

17 3. The appointing judge shall require the guardian ad litem to faithfully discharge such
18 guardian ad litem's duties, and upon failure to do so shall discharge such guardian ad litem and
19 appoint another. **The appointing judge shall have the authority to examine the general and**
20 **criminal background of persons appointed as guardians ad litem, including utilization of**
21 **the family care safety registry and access line pursuant to sections 210.900 to 210.937, to**
22 **ensure the safety and welfare of the children such persons are appointed to represent.** The
23 judge in making appointments pursuant to this section shall give preference to persons who
24 served as guardian ad litem for the child in the earlier proceeding, unless there is a reason on the
25 record for not giving such preference.

26 4. The guardian ad litem may be awarded a reasonable fee for such services to be set by
27 the court. The court, in its discretion, may award such fees as a judgment to be paid by any party
28 to the proceedings or from public funds. However, no fees as a judgment shall be taxed against
29 a party or parties who have not been found to have abused or neglected a child or children. Such
30 an award of guardian fees shall constitute a final judgment in favor of the guardian ad litem.
31 Such final judgment shall be enforceable against the parties in accordance with chapter 513,
32 RSMo.

33 5. The court may designate volunteer advocates, who may or may not be attorneys
34 licensed to practice law, to assist in the performance of the guardian ad litem duties for the court.
35 **Nonattorney volunteer advocates shall not provide legal representation. The court shall**
36 **have the authority to examine the general and criminal background of persons designated**
37 **as volunteer advocates, including utilization of the family care safety registry and access**
38 **line pursuant to sections 210.900 to 210.937, to ensure the safety and welfare of the children**
39 **such persons are designated to represent.** The volunteer advocate shall be provided with all
40 reports relevant to the case made to or by any agency or person [and], shall have access to all
41 records of such agencies or persons relating to the child or such child's family members or
42 placements of the child, **and upon designation by the court to a case, shall be informed of**
43 **and have the right to attend any and all family support team meetings involving the child.**
44 Any such designated person shall receive no compensation from public funds. This shall not
45 preclude reimbursement for reasonable expenses.

46 6. Any person appointed to perform guardian ad litem duties shall have completed a
47 training program in permanency planning **and shall advocate for timely court hearings**
48 **whenever possible to attain permanency for a child as expeditiously as possible to reduce**
49 **the effects that prolonged foster care may have on a child.** A nonattorney volunteer advocate
50 shall have access to a court appointed attorney guardian ad litem should the circumstances of the
51 particular case so require.

210.183. 1. At the time of the initial investigation of a report of child abuse or neglect, the division employee conducting the investigation shall provide the alleged perpetrator with a written description of the investigation process. Such written notice shall be given substantially in the following form:

"The investigation is being undertaken by the **Children's** Division [of Family Services] pursuant to the requirements of chapter 210 of the Revised Missouri Statutes in response to a report of child abuse or neglect.

["]The identity of the person who reported the incident of abuse or neglect is confidential and may not even be known to the Division since the report could have been made anonymously.

["]This investigation is required by law to be conducted in order to enable the **Children's** Division [of Family Services] to identify incidents of abuse or neglect in order to provide protective or preventive social services to families who are in need of such services.

["]The division shall make every reasonable attempt to complete the investigation within thirty days. Within ninety days you will receive a letter from the Division which will inform you of one of the following:

["](1) That the Division has found insufficient evidence of abuse or neglect; or

["](2) That there appears to be [probable cause] **by a preponderance of the evidence reason** to suspect the existence of child abuse or neglect in the judgment of the Division and that the Division will contact the family to offer social services.

["]If the Division finds [there is probable cause] **by a preponderance of the evidence reason** to believe child abuse or neglect has occurred or the case is substantiated by court adjudication, a record of the report and information gathered during the investigation will remain on file with the Division.

["]If you disagree with the determination of the Division and feel that there is insufficient [probable cause to believe] **reason to believe by a preponderance of the evidence that** abuse or neglect has occurred, you have a right to request an administrative review at which time you may hire an attorney to represent you. If you request an administrative review on the issue, you will be notified of the date and time of your administrative review hearing by the child abuse and neglect review board. If the division's decision is reversed by the child abuse and neglect review board, the Division records concerning the report and investigation will be updated to reflect such finding. If the child abuse and neglect review board upholds the division's decision, an appeal may be filed in circuit court within sixty days of the child abuse and neglect review board's decision."

2. If the division uses the family assessment approach, the division shall at the time of the initial contact provide the parent of the child with the following information:

(1) The purpose of the contact with the family;

37 (2) The name of the person responding and his **or her** office telephone number;

38 (3) The assessment process to be followed during the division's intervention with the
39 family including the possible services available and expectations of the family.

**210.187. 1. The task force on children's justice established by the children's
2 division within the department of social services to recommend improvements in the area
3 of child abuse and neglect services and provide funding for such recommendations shall
4 provide an independent review of policies and procedures of state and local child protective
5 services agencies, and where appropriate, specific cases, and shall evaluate the extent to
6 which the agencies are effectively discharging their child protection responsibilities.**

7 **2. Consistent with the task force's function of reviewing applications for federal
8 grant moneys available to the state under the Children's Justice Act which are designed
9 to assist eligible states in implementing programs for the handling, investigation, and
10 prosecution of child abuse cases, the task force shall consider the awarding of grant
11 moneys which address the issues that arise from the independent review conducted by the
12 task force pursuant to subsection 1 of this section. As authorized by the Children's Justice
13 Act, grant moneys shall be awarded for the following categories:**

14 **(1) Improvements to the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases
15 of child abuse and neglect;**

16 **(2) Experimental, model, and demonstration programs for testing innovative
17 approaches and techniques to improve the prompt and successful resolution of court
18 proceedings or enhance the effectiveness and judicial administration action in child abuse
19 and neglect cases; and**

20 **(3) Reform of state laws, rules, protocols, and procedures to provide comprehensive
21 protection for children from abuse and neglect.**

22 **3. The members of the task force shall not disclose to any person or government
23 official any identifying information concerning a specific child protection case with respect
24 to which the task force is providing information and shall not make public other
25 information unless authorized by federal or state law.**

26 **4. The task force shall be provided:**

27 **(1) Access to information on cases that the task force desires or is requested to
28 review if such information is necessary for the task force to carry out its functions
29 pursuant to this section; and**

30 **(2) Upon request, assistance from the department of social services for the
31 performance of the task force's duties.**

210.188. Beginning February 1, 2006, and each February first thereafter, the department of social services shall submit a report to the governor and the general assembly that includes the following information for the previous calendar year:

(1) The number of children who were reported to the state of Missouri during the year as abused or neglected;

(2) Of the number of children described in subdivision (1) of this section, the number with respect to whom such reports were substantiated or unsubstantiated;

(3) Of the number of children described in subdivision (2) of this section:

(a) The number that did not receive or refused services during the year under a children's division program;

(b) The number that did receive services during the year under a state program; and

(c) The number that were removed from their families during the year by disposition of the case;

(4) The number of families that received preventive services from the state or a private service provider during the year;

(5) The number of deaths in the state during the year resulting from child abuse or neglect;

(6) Of the number of children described in subdivision (5) of this section, the number of children who were in foster care or received services from a private service provider;

(7) The number of child protective services workers responsible for the intake and screening of reports filed during the year;

(8) The agency response time with respect to each such report with respect to initial investigation of reports of child abuse or neglect;

(9) The response time with respect to the provision of services to families and children where an allegation of abuse or neglect has been made;

(10) The number of child protective services workers responsible for intake, assessment, and investigation of child abuse and neglect reports relative to the number of reports investigated during the year;

(11) The number of children reunited with their families or receiving family preservation services that, within five years, result in subsequent substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect, including the death of the child; and

(12) The number of children in foster care who have been adopted.

210.201. As used in sections 210.201 to 210.257, the following terms mean:

(1) "Child", an individual who is under the age of seventeen;

3 (2) "Child-care facility", a house or other place conducted or maintained by any person
4 who advertises or holds himself out as providing care for more than four children during the
5 daytime, for compensation or otherwise, except those operated by a school system or in
6 connection with a business establishment which provides child care as a convenience for its
7 customers or its employees for no more than four hours per day, but a child-care facility shall not
8 include any private or religious organization elementary or secondary school, a religious
9 organization academic preschool or kindergarten for four- and five-year-old children, a home
10 school, as defined in section 167.031, RSMo, a weekly Sunday or Sabbath school, a vacation
11 Bible school or child care made available while the parents or guardians are attending worship
12 services or other meetings and activities conducted or sponsored by a religious organization. **If**
13 **a facility or program is exempt from licensure based on the school exception established**
14 **in this subdivision, such facility or program shall submit documentation annually to the**
15 **department to verify its licensure-exempt status; except that, under no circumstances shall**
16 **any public or religious organization elementary or secondary school, a religious**
17 **organization academic preschool or kindergarten for four- and five-year-old children, a**
18 **home school, as defined in section 167.031, RSMo, a weekly Sunday or Sabbath school, a**
19 **vacation Bible school or child care made available while the parents or guardians are**
20 **attending worship services or other meetings and activities conducted or sponsored by a**
21 **religious organization be required to submit documentation annually to the department**
22 **to verify its licensure-exempt status;**

23 (3) "Person", any person, firm, corporation, association, institution or other incorporated
24 or unincorporated organization;

25 (4) "Religious organization", a church, synagogue or mosque; an entity that has or would
26 qualify for federal tax-exempt status as a nonprofit religious organization under Section 501(c)
27 of the Internal Revenue Code; or an entity whose real estate on which the child-care facility is
28 located is exempt from taxation because it is used for religious purposes.

210.211. 1. It shall be unlawful for any person to establish, maintain or operate a
2 child-care facility for children, or to advertise or hold himself or herself out as being able to
3 perform any of the services as defined in section 210.201, without having in effect a written
4 license granted by the department of health and senior services; except that nothing in sections
5 210.203 to 210.245 shall apply to:

6 (1) Any person who is caring for four or fewer children.

7 For purposes of this subdivision, children who are related by blood, marriage or adoption to such
8 person within the third degree shall not be considered in the total number of children being cared
9 for;

10 (2) Any person who has been duly appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction the
11 guardian of the person of the child or children, or the person who has legal custody of the child
12 or children;

13 (3) Any person who receives free of charge, and not as a business, for periods not
14 exceeding ninety consecutive days, as bona fide, occasional and personal guests the child or
15 children of personal friends of such person, and who receives custody of no other unrelated child
16 or children;

17 (4) Any graded boarding school, summer camp, hospital, sanitarium or home which is
18 conducted in good faith primarily to provide education, recreation, medical treatment, or nursing
19 or convalescent care for children;

20 (5) Any child-care facility maintained or operated under the exclusive control of a
21 religious organization. When a nonreligious organization, having as its principal purpose the
22 provision of child-care services, enters into an arrangement with a religious organization for the
23 maintenance or operation of a child-care facility, the facility is not under the exclusive control
24 of the religious organization;

25 (6) Any residential facility or day program licensed by the department of mental health
26 pursuant to sections 630.705 to 630.760, RSMo, which provides care, treatment and habilitation
27 exclusively to children who have a primary diagnosis of mental disorder, mental illness, mental
28 retardation or developmental disability, as defined in section 630.005, RSMo; and

29 (7) Any nursery school.

30 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 1 of this section, no child-care facility
31 shall be exempt from licensure if such facility receives any state or federal funds for providing
32 care for children, except for federal funds for those programs which meet the requirements for
33 participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1766. Grants to
34 parents for child care pursuant to sections 210.201 to 210.257 shall not be construed to be funds
35 received by [the] a person or facility listed in subdivisions (1) and (5) of subsection 1 of this
36 section.

**210.482. 1. If the emergency placement of a child in a private home is necessary
2 due to the unexpected absence of the child's parents, legal guardian, or custodian, the
3 juvenile court or children's division:**

4 **(1) May request that a local or state law enforcement agency or juvenile officer,
5 subject to any required federal authorization, immediately conduct a name-based criminal
6 history record check to include full orders of protection and outstanding warrants of each
7 person over the age of seventeen residing in the home by using the Missouri uniform law
8 enforcement system (MULES) and the National Crime Information Center to access the
9 Interstate Identification Index maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and**

10 **(2) Shall determine or, in the case of the juvenile court, shall request the division**
11 **to determine whether any person over the age of seventeen years residing in the home is**
12 **listed on the child abuse and neglect registry.**

13

14 **For any children less than seventeen years of age residing in the home, the children's**
15 **division shall inquire of the person with whom an emergency placement of a child will be**
16 **made whether any children less than seventeen years of age residing in the home have ever**
17 **been certified as an adult and convicted of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any crime.**

18 **2. If a name-based search has been conducted pursuant to subsection 1 of this**
19 **section, within fifteen business days after the emergency placement of the child in the**
20 **private home, and if the private home has not previously been approved as a foster or**
21 **adoptive home, all persons over the age of seventeen residing in the home and all children**
22 **less than seventeen residing in the home who the division has determined has been certified**
23 **as an adult for the commission of a crime, other than persons within the second degree of**
24 **consanguinity and affinity to the child, shall report to a local law enforcement agency for**
25 **the purpose of providing two sets of fingerprints each and accompanying fees, pursuant**
26 **to section 43.530, RSMo. One set of fingerprints shall be used by the highway patrol to**
27 **search the criminal history repository and the second set shall be forwarded to the Federal**
28 **Bureau of Investigation for searching the federal criminal history files. Results of the**
29 **checks will be provided to the juvenile court or children's division office requesting such**
30 **information. Any child placed in emergency placement in a private home shall be removed**
31 **immediately if any person residing in the home fails to provide fingerprints after being**
32 **requested to do so, unless the person refusing to provide fingerprints ceases to reside in the**
33 **private home.**

34 **3. If the placement of a child is denied as a result of a name-based criminal history**
35 **check and the denial is contested, all persons over the age of seventeen residing in the home**
36 **and all children less than seventeen years of age residing in the home who the division has**
37 **determined has been certified as an adult for the commission of a crime shall, within fifteen**
38 **business days, submit to the juvenile court or the children's division two sets of fingerprints**
39 **in the same manner described in subsection 2 of this section, accompanying fees, and**
40 **written permission authorizing the juvenile court or the children's division to forward the**
41 **fingerprints to the state criminal record repository for submission to the Federal Bureau**
42 **of Investigation. One set of fingerprints shall be used by the highway patrol to search the**
43 **criminal history repository and the second set shall be forwarded to the Federal Bureau**
44 **of Investigation for searching the federal criminal history files.**

45 **4. Subject to appropriation, the total cost of fingerprinting required by this section**
46 **may be paid by the state, including reimbursement of persons incurring fingerprinting**
47 **costs under this section.**

48 **5. For the purposes of this section, "emergency placement" refers to those limited**
49 **instances when the juvenile court or children's division is placing a child in the home of**
50 **private individuals, including neighbors, friends, or relatives, as a result of a sudden**
51 **unavailability of the child's primary caretaker.**

210.487. 1. When conducting investigations of persons for the purpose of foster
2 **parent licensing, the division shall:**

3 **(1) Conduct a search for all persons over the age of seventeen in the applicant's**
4 **household and for any child less than seventeen years of age residing in the applicant's**
5 **home who the division has determined has been certified as an adult for the commission**
6 **of a crime for evidence of full orders of protection. The office of state courts administrator**
7 **shall allow access to the automated court information system by the division. The clerk of**
8 **each court contacted by the division shall provide the division information within ten days**
9 **of a request; and**

10 **(2) Obtain two sets of fingerprints for any person over the age of seventeen in the**
11 **applicant's household and for any child less than seventeen years of age residing in the**
12 **applicant's home who the division has determined has been certified as an adult for the**
13 **commission of a crime in the same manner set forth in subsection 2 of section 210.482. One**
14 **set of fingerprints shall be used by the highway patrol to search the criminal history**
15 **repository and the second set shall be forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for**
16 **searching the federal criminal history files. The highway patrol shall assist the division**
17 **and provide the criminal fingerprint background information, upon request; and**

18 **(3) Determine whether any person over the age of seventeen residing in the home**
19 **and any child less than seventeen years of age residing in the applicant's home who the**
20 **division has determined has been certified as an adult for the commission of a crime is**
21 **listed on the child abuse and neglect registry.**

22

23 **For any children less than seventeen years of age residing in the applicant's home, the**
24 **children's division shall inquire of the applicant whether any children less than seventeen**
25 **years of age residing in the home have ever been certified as an adult and been convicted**
26 **of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any crime.**

27 **2. Subject to appropriation, the total cost of fingerprinting required by this section**
28 **may be paid by the state, including reimbursement of persons incurring fingerprinting**
29 **costs under this section.**

30 **3. The division may make arrangements with other executive branch agencies to**
31 **obtain any investigative background information.**

32 **4. The division may promulgate rules that are necessary to implement the**
33 **provisions of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section**
34 **536.010, RSMo, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become**
35 **effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536,**
36 **RSMo, and, if applicable, section 536.028, RSMo. This section and chapter 536, RSMo, are**
37 **nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to**
38 **chapter 536, RSMo, to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule**
39 **are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any**
40 **rule proposed or adopted after the effective date of this section shall be invalid and void.**

 210.518. **1.** The department of social services, the department of mental health, the
2 department of elementary and secondary education and all subdivisions thereof shall develop and
3 implement through interagency agreement a common system of classification for assessing the
4 needs of a child and common terminology to describe the services to be provided to the child.
5 The agreement must establish a standardized form and set of records to be kept for such children
6 which shall include, if applicable to such child, any individualized education plan, diagnostic
7 summary, school history, school records, medical history, court records, placement orders and
8 any criminal history. The agreement shall be adopted and in effect on or before July 1, 1999.

9 **2. To facilitate the coordination of services being provided to children, interagency**
10 **meetings pursuant to subsection 1 of this section shall be held as frequently as appropriate**
11 **to address and review any actions being taken by agency personnel involved in the**
12 **provision of services to a child and to ensure the existence of a continuation of services to**
13 **prevent and treat child abuse and neglect, evaluate data, policy, and practices, and assure**
14 **the quality of services provided to children. The agencies shall document which staff**
15 **members attended such meetings. If any services for the child are provided through**
16 **contracted providers, such providers shall be included in the meetings described in this**
17 **section.**

210.535. The department of social services, shall:

2 **(1) Submit amendments to state plans and seek available waivers from the federal**
3 **Department of Health and Human Services to enhance federal reimbursement and federal**
4 **administrative reimbursement for foster care and adoption assistance under Title IV-E of**
5 **the Social Security Act and Title XIX of the Social Security Act; and**

6 **(2) Take the necessary steps to qualify the state for receipt of any federal block**
7 **grant moneys which are or will be available for foster care and adoption assistance.**

2 **210.542. 1. The children's division shall provide certain standards and training**
3 **that prospective foster care parents shall meet before becoming licensed.**

4 **2. The children's division shall provide performance-based criteria for the**
5 **evaluation of licensed foster parents and may establish by rule the frequency of such**
6 **evaluation.**

7 210.565. 1. Whenever a child is placed in a foster home **and the court has determined**
8 **pursuant to subsection 3 of this section that foster home placement with relatives is not**
9 **contrary to the best interest of the child,** the children's division [of family services] shall give
10 [preference and first consideration for] foster home placement to relatives of the child.
11 Notwithstanding any rule of the division to the contrary, grandparents who request consideration
12 shall be given preference and first consideration for foster home placement.

13 2. As used in this section, the term "relative" means a person related to another by blood
14 or affinity within the third degree. The status of a grandparent shall not be affected by the death
15 or the dissolution of the marriage of a son or daughter.

16 3. The preference for placement with relatives created by this section shall only apply
17 where the court finds that placement with such relatives is [in] **not contrary to** the best interest
18 of the child considering all circumstances. **If the court finds that it is contrary to the best**
19 **interest of a child to be placed with relatives, the court shall make specific findings on the**
20 **record detailing the reasons why the best interests of the child necessitate placement of the**
21 **child with persons other than relatives.**

22 4. **The age of the child's relative shall not be the only factor that the children's**
23 **division takes into consideration when it makes placement decisions and recommendations**
24 **to the court about placing the child with such relative.**

25 5. **For any native American child placed in protective custody, the children's**
26 **division shall comply with the placement requirements set forth in 25 U.S.C. Section 1915.**

27 210.760. 1. In making placements in foster care the children's division [of family
28 services] shall:

29 (1) Arrange for a preplacement visit of the child, except in emergencies;

30 (2) Provide full and accurate medical information and medical history to the persons
31 providing foster care at the time of placement;

32 (3) Give a minimum of five days advance notice to the persons providing foster care
33 before removing a child from their care;

34 (4) Provide the persons giving foster care with a written statement of the reasons for
35 removing a child at the time of the notification required by this section; [and]

36 (5) **Notify the child's parent or legal guardian that the child has been placed in**
37 **foster care; and**

12 **(6) Work with the [natural] parent or legal guardian of the child,** through services
13 available, in an effort to return the child to his **or her** natural home, if at all possible, or to place
14 the child in a permanent adoptive setting, in accordance with the division's goals to reduce the
15 number of children in long-term foster care and reestablish and encourage the family unit.

16 **2. Except as otherwise provided in section 210.125, no child shall be removed from**
17 **school prior to the end of the official school day for that child for placement in foster care**
18 **without a court order specifying that the child shall be removed from school.**

210.762. 1. When a child is taken into custody by a juvenile officer or law
2 **enforcement official under subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of section 211.031, RSMo, and**
3 **initially placed with the division, the division may make a temporary placement and shall**
4 **arrange for a family support team meeting prior to or within twenty-four hours following**
5 **the protective custody hearing held under section 211.032, RSMo. After a child is in the**
6 **division's custody and a temporary placement has been made, the division shall arrange**
7 **an additional family support team meeting prior to taking any action relating to the**
8 **placement of such child; except that, when the welfare of a child in the custody of the**
9 **division requires an immediate or emergency change of placement, the division may make**
10 **a temporary placement and shall schedule a family support team meeting within seventy-**
11 **two hours.**

12 **2. The parents, the legal counsel for the parents, the foster parents, the legal**
13 **guardian or custodian of the child, the guardian ad litem for the child, and the volunteer**
14 **advocate, and any designee of the parent that has written authorization shall be notified**
15 **and invited to participate in all family support team meetings. The family support team**
16 **meeting may include such other persons whose attendance at the meeting may assist the**
17 **team in making appropriate decisions in the best interests of the child. If the division finds**
18 **that it is not in the best interest of a child to be placed with relatives, the division shall**
19 **make specific findings in the division's report detailing the reasons why the best interests**
20 **of the child necessitate placement of the child with persons other than relatives.**

21 **3. The division shall use the form created in subsection 2 of section 210.147 to be**
22 **signed upon the conclusion of the meeting pursuant to subsection 1 of this section**
23 **confirming that all involved parties are aware of the team's decision regarding the custody**
24 **and placement of the child. Any dissenting views must be recorded and attested to on such**
25 **form.**

26 **4. The case manager shall be responsible for including such form with the case**
27 **records of the child.**

210.903. 1. To protect children, the elderly, and disabled individuals in this state, and
2 **to promote family and community safety by providing information concerning family caregivers,**

3 there is hereby established within the department of health and senior services a "Family Care
4 Safety Registry and Access Line" which shall be available by January 1, 2001.

5 2. The family care safety registry shall contain information on child-care workers',
6 elder-care workers', and personal-care workers' background and on child-care, elder-care and
7 personal-care providers through:

8 (1) The patrol's criminal record check system pursuant to section 43.540, RSMo,
9 including state and national information, to the extent possible;

10 (2) Probable cause findings of abuse and neglect **prior to the effective date of this**
11 **section or findings of abuse and neglect by a preponderance of the evidence after the**
12 **effective date of this section** pursuant to sections 210.109 to 210.183 and, as of January 1, 2003,
13 financial exploitation of the elderly or disabled, pursuant to section 570.145, RSMo;

14 (3) The division of aging's employee disqualification list pursuant to section 660.315,
15 RSMo;

16 (4) As of January 1, 2003, the department of mental health's employee disqualification
17 registry;

18 (5) Foster parent licensure denials, revocations and involuntary suspensions pursuant to
19 section 210.496;

20 (6) Child-care facility license denials, revocations and suspensions pursuant to sections
21 210.201 to 210.259;

22 (7) Residential living facility and nursing home license denials, revocations, suspensions
23 and probationary status pursuant to chapter 198, RSMo; and

24 (8) As of January 1, 2004, a check of the patrol's Missouri uniform law enforcement
25 system (MULES) for sexual offender registrations pursuant to section 589.400, RSMo.

210.909. 1. Upon submission of a completed registration form by a child-care worker,
2 elder-care worker or personal-care attendant, the department shall:

3 (1) Determine if a probable cause finding of child abuse or neglect **prior to the effective**
4 **date of this section or a finding of child abuse or neglect by a preponderance of the**
5 **evidence after the effective date of this section** involving the applicant has been recorded
6 pursuant to sections 210.109 to 210.183 and, as of January 1, 2003, if there is a probable cause
7 finding of financial exploitation of the elderly or disabled pursuant to section 570.145, RSMo;

8 (2) Determine if the applicant has been refused licensure or has experienced involuntary
9 licensure suspension or revocation pursuant to section 210.496;

10 (3) Determine if the applicant has been placed on the employee disqualification list
11 pursuant to section 660.315, RSMo;

12 (4) As of January 1, 2003, determine if the applicant is listed on the department of
13 mental health's employee disqualification registry;

14 (5) Determine through a request to the patrol pursuant to section 43.540, RSMo, whether
15 the applicant has any criminal history record for a felony or misdemeanor or any offense for
16 which the person has registered pursuant to sections 589.400 to 589.425, RSMo; and

17 (6) If the background check involves a provider, determine if a facility has been refused
18 licensure or has experienced licensure suspension, revocation or probationary status pursuant to
19 sections 210.201 to 210.259 or chapter 198, RSMo; and

20 (7) As of January 1, 2004, determine through a request to the patrol if the applicant is
21 a registered sexual offender pursuant to section 589.400, RSMo, listed in the Missouri uniform
22 law enforcement system (MULES).

23 2. Upon completion of the background check described in subsection 1 of this section,
24 the department shall include information in the registry for each registrant as to whether any
25 convictions, employee disqualification listings, registry listings, probable cause findings, pleas
26 of guilty or nolo contendere, or license denial, revocation or suspension have been documented
27 through the records checks authorized pursuant to the provisions of sections 210.900 to 210.936.

28 3. The department shall notify such registrant in writing of the results of the
29 determination recorded on the registry pursuant to this section.

211.031. 1. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the juvenile court or the family
2 court in circuits that have a family court as provided in sections 487.010 to 487.190, RSMo, shall
3 have exclusive original jurisdiction in proceedings:

4 (1) Involving any child or person seventeen years of age who may be a resident of or
5 found within the county and who is alleged to be in need of care and treatment because:

6 (a) The parents, or other persons legally responsible for the care and support of the child
7 or person seventeen years of age, neglect or refuse to provide proper support, education which
8 is required by law, medical, surgical or other care necessary for his or her well-being; except that
9 reliance by a parent, guardian or custodian upon remedial treatment other than medical or
10 surgical treatment for a child or person seventeen years of age shall not be construed as neglect
11 when the treatment is recognized or permitted pursuant to the laws of this state;

12 (b) The child or person seventeen years of age is otherwise without proper care, custody
13 or support; or

14 (c) The child or person seventeen years of age was living in a room, building or other
15 structure at the time such dwelling was found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be a public
16 nuisance pursuant to section 195.130, RSMo;

17 (d) The child or person seventeen years of age is a child in need of mental health services
18 and the parent, guardian or custodian is unable to afford or access appropriate mental health
19 treatment or care for the child;

20 (2) Involving any child who may be a resident of or found within the county and who is
21 alleged to be in need of care and treatment because:

22 (a) The child while subject to compulsory school attendance is repeatedly and without
23 justification absent from school; or

24 (b) The child disobeys the reasonable and lawful directions of his or her parents or other
25 custodian and is beyond their control; or

26 (c) The child is habitually absent from his or her home without sufficient cause,
27 permission, or justification; or

28 (d) The behavior or associations of the child are otherwise injurious to his or her welfare
29 or to the welfare of others; or

30 (e) The child is charged with an offense not classified as criminal, or with an offense
31 applicable only to children; except that, the juvenile court shall not have jurisdiction over any
32 child fifteen and one-half years of age who is alleged to have violated a state or municipal traffic
33 ordinance or regulation, the violation of which does not constitute a felony, or any child who is
34 alleged to have violated a state or municipal ordinance or regulation prohibiting possession or
35 use of any tobacco product;

36 (3) Involving any child who is alleged to have violated a state law or municipal
37 ordinance, or any person who is alleged to have violated a state law or municipal ordinance prior
38 to attaining the age of seventeen years, in which cases jurisdiction may be taken by the court of
39 the circuit in which the child or person resides or may be found or in which the violation is
40 alleged to have occurred; except that, the juvenile court shall not have jurisdiction over any child
41 fifteen and one-half years of age who is alleged to have violated a state or municipal traffic
42 ordinance or regulation, the violation of which does not constitute a felony, or any child who is
43 alleged to have violated a state or municipal ordinance or regulation prohibiting possession or
44 use of any tobacco product;

45 (4) For the adoption of a person;

46 (5) For the commitment of a child or person seventeen years of age to the guardianship
47 of the department of social services as provided by law.

48 2. Transfer of a matter, proceeding, jurisdiction or supervision for a child or person
49 seventeen years of age who resides in a county of this state shall be made as follows:

50 (1) Prior to the filing of a petition and upon request of any party or at the discretion of
51 the juvenile officer, the matter in the interest of a child or person seventeen years of age may be
52 transferred by the juvenile officer, with the prior consent of the juvenile officer of the receiving
53 court, to the county of the child's residence or the residence of the person seventeen years of age
54 for future action;

55 (2) Upon the motion of any party or on its own motion prior to final disposition on the
56 pending matter, the court in which a proceeding is commenced may transfer the proceeding of
57 a child or person seventeen years of age to the court located in the county of the child's residence
58 or the residence of the person seventeen years of age, or the county in which the offense pursuant
59 to subdivision (3) of subsection 1 of this section is alleged to have occurred for further action;

60 (3) Upon motion of any party or on its own motion, the court in which jurisdiction has
61 been taken pursuant to subsection 1 of this section may at any time thereafter transfer jurisdiction
62 of a child or person seventeen years of age to the court located in the county of the child's
63 residence or the residence of the person seventeen years of age for further action with the prior
64 consent of the receiving court;

65 (4) Upon motion of any party or upon its own motion at any time following a judgment
66 of disposition or treatment pursuant to section 211.181, the court having jurisdiction of the cause
67 may place the child or person seventeen years of age under the supervision of another juvenile
68 court within or without the state pursuant to section 210.570, RSMo, with the consent of the
69 receiving court;

70 (5) **Upon motion of any child or person seventeen years of age or his or her parent,**
71 **the court having jurisdiction shall grant one change of judge pursuant to Missouri**
72 **Supreme Court Rules;**

73 (6) Upon the transfer of any matter, proceeding, jurisdiction or supervision of a child or
74 person seventeen years of age, certified copies of all legal and social documents and records
75 pertaining to the case on file with the clerk of the transferring juvenile court shall accompany the
76 transfer.

77 3. In any proceeding involving any child or person seventeen years of age taken into
78 custody in a county other than the county of the child's residence or the residence of a person
79 seventeen years of age, the juvenile court of the county of the child's residence or the residence
80 of a person seventeen years of age shall be notified of such taking into custody within
81 seventy-two hours.

82 **4. When an investigation by a juvenile officer pursuant to this section reveals that**
83 **the only basis for action involves an alleged violation of section 167.031, RSMo, involving**
84 **a child who alleges to be home schooled, the juvenile officer shall contact a parent or**
85 **parents of such child to verify that the child is being home schooled and not in violation of**
86 **section 167.031, RSMo, before making a report of such a violation. Any report of a**
87 **violation of section 167.031, RSMo, made by a juvenile officer regarding a child who is**
88 **being home schooled shall be made to the prosecuting attorney of the county where the**
89 **child legally resides.**

211.032. 1. **Except as otherwise provided in a circuit participating in a pilot project established by the Missouri supreme court,** when a child or person seventeen years of age, alleged to be in need of care and treatment pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of section 211.031, is taken into custody, the juvenile or family court shall notify the parties of the right to have a protective custody hearing. Such notification shall be in writing.

2. Upon request from any party, the court shall hold a protective custody hearing. Such hearing shall be held within three days of the request for a hearing, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays. **For circuits participating in a pilot project established by the Missouri supreme court, the parties shall be notified at the status conference of their right to request a protective custody hearing.**

3. **No later than February 1, 2005, the Missouri supreme court shall require a mandatory court proceeding to be held within three days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, in all cases under subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of section 211.031. The Missouri supreme court shall promulgate rules for the implementation of such mandatory court proceedings and may consider recommendations from any pilot projects established by the Missouri supreme court regarding such proceedings. Nothing in this subsection shall prevent the Missouri supreme court from expanding pilot projects prior to the implementation of this subsection.**

[3.] 4. **The court shall hold an adjudication hearing no later than sixty days after the child has been taken into custody. The court shall notify the parties in writing of the specific date, time, and place of such hearing. If at such hearing the court determines that sufficient cause exists for the child to remain in the custody of the state, the court shall conduct a dispositional hearing no later than ninety days after the child has been taken into custody and shall conduct review hearings regarding the reunification efforts made by the division every ninety to one hundred twenty days for the first year the child is in the custody of the division. After the first year, review hearings shall be held as necessary, but in no event less than once every six months for as long as the child is in the custody of the division.**

5. At [the protective custody hearing] **all hearings held pursuant to this section** the court may receive testimony and other evidence relevant to the necessity of detaining the child out of the custody of the parents, guardian or custodian.

6. **By January 1, 2005, the supreme court shall develop rules regarding the effect of untimely hearings.**

7. **If the placement of any child in the custody of the children's division will result in the child attending a school other than the school the child was attending when taken into custody:**

37 **(1) The child's records from such school shall automatically be forwarded to the**
38 **school that the child is transferring to upon notification within two business days by the**
39 **division; or**

40 **(2) Upon request of the foster family, the guardian ad litem, or the volunteer**
41 **advocate and whenever possible, the child shall be permitted to continue to attend the same**
42 **school that the child was enrolled in and attending at the time the child was taken into**
43 **custody by the division. The division, in consultation with the department of elementary**
44 **and secondary education, shall establish the necessary procedures to implement the**
45 **provisions of this subsection.**

211.038. No child under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court shall be reunited with
2 **a parent or placed in a home in which the parent or any person residing in the home has**
3 **been found guilty of, or pled guilty to, a felony violation of chapter 566, RSMo, except for**
4 **section 566.034, RSMo, when a child was the victim, or a violation of sections 568.020,**
5 **568.045, 568.060, 568.065, 568.070, 568.080, 568.090, and 568.175, RSMo, except for**
6 **subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of section 568.060, RSMo, when a child was the victim, or**
7 **an offense committed in another state when a child is the victim, that would be a felony**
8 **violation of chapter 566, RSMo, except for section 566.034, RSMo, or a violation of sections**
9 **568.020, 568.045, 568.060, 568.065, 568.070, 568.080, 568.090, and 568.175, RSMo, except**
10 **for subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of section 568.060, RSMo, if committed in Missouri;**
11 **provided however, nothing in this section shall preclude the juvenile court from exercising**
12 **its discretion regarding the placement of child in a home in which the parent or any person**
13 **residing in the home has been found guilty of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any**
14 **offense excepted or excluded in this section.**

 211.059. 1. When a child is taken into custody by a juvenile officer or law enforcement
2 official, with or without a warrant for an offense in violation of the juvenile code or the general
3 law which would place the child under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court pursuant to
4 subdivision (2) or (3) of subsection 1 of section 211.031, the child shall be advised prior to
5 questioning:

6 (1) That he has the right to remain silent; and

7 (2) That any statement he does make to anyone can be and may be used against him; and

8 (3) That he has a right to have a parent, guardian or custodian present during
9 questioning; and

10 (4) That he has a right to consult with an attorney and that one will be appointed and paid
11 for him if he cannot afford one.

12 2. If the child indicates in any manner and at any stage of questioning pursuant to this
13 section that he does not wish to be questioned further, the officer shall cease questioning.

14 **3. When a child is taken into custody by a juvenile officer or law enforcement**
15 **official which places the child under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court under subdivision**
16 **(1) of subsection 1 of section 211.031, including any interactions with the child by the**
17 **children's division, the following shall apply:**

18 **(1) If the child indicates in any manner at any stage during questioning involving**
19 **the alleged abuse and neglect that the child does not wish to be questioned any further on**
20 **the allegations, or that the child wishes to have his or her parent, legal guardian, or**
21 **custodian if such parent, guardian, or custodian is not the alleged perpetrator, or his or her**
22 **attorney present during questioning as to the alleged abuse, the questioning of the child**
23 **shall cease on the alleged abuse and neglect until such a time that the child does not object**
24 **to talking about the alleged abuse and neglect unless the interviewer has reason to believe**
25 **that the parent, legal guardian, or custodian is acting to protect the alleged perpetrator.**
26 **Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to prevent the asking of any questions**
27 **necessary for the care, treatment, or placement of a child; and**

28 **(2) Notwithstanding any prohibition of hearsay evidence, all video or audio**
29 **recordings of any meetings, interviews, or interrogations of a child shall be presumed**
30 **admissible as evidence in any court or administrative proceeding involving the child if the**
31 **following conditions are met:**

32 **(a) Such meetings, interviews, or interrogations of the child are conducted by the**
33 **state prior to or after the child is taken into the custody of the state; and**

34 **(b) Such video or audio recordings were made prior to the adjudication hearing in**
35 **the case. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to prohibit the videotaping or**
36 **audiotaping of any such meetings, interviews, or interrogations of a child after the**
37 **adjudication hearing; and**

38 **(3) Only upon a showing by clear and convincing evidence that such a video or**
39 **audio recording lacks sufficient indicia of reliability shall such recording be inadmissible.**

40

41 **The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to statements admissible under section**
42 **491.075 or 492.304, RSMo, in criminal proceedings.**

211.171. 1. The procedure to be followed at the hearing shall be determined by the
2 juvenile court judge and may be as formal or informal as he or she considers desirable, consistent
3 with constitutional and statutory requirements. The judge may take testimony and inquire into
4 the habits, surroundings, conditions and tendencies of the child and the family to enable the court
5 to render such order or judgment as will best promote the welfare of the child and carry out the
6 objectives of this chapter.

7 2. The hearing may, in the discretion of the court, proceed in the absence of the child and
8 may be adjourned from time to time.

9 3. The current foster parents of a child, or any preadoptive parent or relative currently
10 providing care for the child, shall be provided with notice of, and an opportunity to be heard in,
11 any [permanency or other review] hearing to be held with respect to the child. This subsection
12 shall not be construed to require that any such foster parent, preadoptive parent or relative
13 providing care for a child be made a party to the case solely on the basis of such notice and
14 opportunity to be heard.

15 4. All cases of children shall be heard separately from the trial of cases against adults.

16 5. Stenographic notes or an authorized recording of the hearing shall be required if the
17 court so orders or, if requested by any party interested in the proceeding.

18 6. The general public shall be excluded and only such persons admitted as have a direct
19 interest in the case or in the work of the court except in cases where the child is accused of
20 conduct which, if committed by an adult, would be considered a class A or B felony; or for
21 conduct which would be considered a class C felony, if the child has previously been formally
22 adjudicated for the commission of two or more unrelated acts which would have been class A,
23 B or C felonies, if committed by an adult.

24 7. The practice and procedure customary in proceedings in equity shall govern all
25 proceedings in the juvenile court; **except that, the court shall not grant a continuance in such**
26 **proceedings absent compelling extenuating circumstances, and in such cases, the court**
27 **shall make written findings on the record detailing the specific reasons for granting a**
28 **continuance.**

29 8. The court shall allow the victim of any offense to submit a written statement to the
30 court. The court shall allow the victim to appear before the court personally or by counsel for
31 the purpose of making a statement, unless the court finds that the presence of the victim would
32 not serve justice. The statement shall relate solely to the facts of the case and any personal
33 injuries or financial loss incurred by the victim. A member of the immediate family of the victim
34 may appear personally or by counsel to make a statement if the victim has died or is otherwise
35 unable to appear as a result of the offense committed by the child.

211.181. 1. When a child or person seventeen years of age is found by the court to come
2 within the applicable provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of section 211.031, the court
3 shall so decree and make a finding of fact upon which it exercises its jurisdiction over the child
4 or person seventeen years of age, and the court may, by order duly entered, proceed as follows:

5 (1) Place the child or person seventeen years of age under supervision in his own home
6 or in the custody of a relative or other suitable person after the court or a public agency or
7 institution designated by the court conducts an investigation of the home, relative or person and

8 finds such home, relative or person to be suitable and upon such conditions as the court may
9 require;

10 (2) Commit the child or person seventeen years of age to the custody of:

11 (a) A public agency or institution authorized by law to care for children or to place them
12 in family homes; except that, such child or person seventeen years of age may not be committed
13 to the department of social services, division of youth services;

14 (b) Any other institution or agency which is authorized or licensed by law to care for
15 children or to place them in family homes;

16 (c) An association, school or institution willing to receive the child or person seventeen
17 years of age in another state if the approval of the agency in that state which administers the laws
18 relating to importation of children into the state has been secured; or

19 (d) The juvenile officer;

20 (3) Place the child or person seventeen years of age in a family home;

21 (4) Cause the child or person seventeen years of age to be examined and treated by a
22 physician, psychiatrist or psychologist and when the health or condition of the child or person
23 seventeen years of age requires it, cause the child or person seventeen years of age to be placed
24 in a public or private hospital, clinic or institution for treatment and care; except that, nothing
25 contained herein authorizes any form of compulsory medical, surgical, or psychiatric treatment
26 of a child or person seventeen years of age whose parents or guardian in good faith are providing
27 other remedial treatment recognized or permitted under the laws of this state;

28 (5) The court may order, pursuant to subsection 2 of section 211.081, that the child
29 receive the necessary services in the least restrictive appropriate environment including home
30 and community-based services, treatment and support, based on a coordinated, individualized
31 treatment plan. The individualized treatment plan shall be approved by the court and developed
32 by the applicable state agencies responsible for providing or paying for any and all appropriate
33 and necessary services, subject to appropriation, and shall include which agencies are going to
34 pay for and provide such services. Such plan must be submitted to the court within thirty days
35 and the child's family shall actively participate in designing the service plan for the child or
36 person seventeen years of age;

37 **(6) The department of social services, in conjunction with the department of mental**
38 **health, shall apply to the United States Department of Health and Human Services for such**
39 **federal waivers as required to provide services for such children, including the acquisition**
40 **of community-based services waivers.**

41 2. When a child is found by the court to come within the provisions of subdivision (2)
42 of subsection 1 of section 211.031, the court shall so decree and upon making a finding of fact

43 upon which it exercises its jurisdiction over the child, the court may, by order duly entered,
44 proceed as follows:

45 (1) Place the child under supervision in his own home or in custody of a relative or other
46 suitable person after the court or a public agency or institution designated by the court conducts
47 an investigation of the home, relative or person and finds such home, relative or person to be
48 suitable and upon such conditions as the court may require;

49 (2) Commit the child to the custody of:

50 (a) A public agency or institution authorized by law to care for children or place them
51 in family homes; except that, a child may be committed to the department of social services,
52 division of youth services, only if he is presently under the court's supervision after an
53 adjudication under the provisions of subdivision (2) or (3) of subsection 1 of section 211.031;

54 (b) Any other institution or agency which is authorized or licensed by law to care for
55 children or to place them in family homes;

56 (c) An association, school or institution willing to receive it in another state if the
57 approval of the agency in that state which administers the laws relating to importation of children
58 into the state has been secured; or

59 (d) The juvenile officer;

60 (3) Place the child in a family home;

61 (4) Cause the child to be examined and treated by a physician, psychiatrist or
62 psychologist and when the health or condition of the child requires it, cause the child to be placed
63 in a public or private hospital, clinic or institution for treatment and care; except that, nothing
64 contained herein authorizes any form of compulsory medical, surgical, or psychiatric treatment
65 of a child whose parents or guardian in good faith are providing other remedial treatment
66 recognized or permitted under the laws of this state;

67 (5) Assess an amount of up to ten dollars to be paid by the child to the clerk of the court.
68 Execution of any order entered by the court pursuant to this subsection, including a commitment
69 to any state agency, may be suspended and the child placed on probation subject to such
70 conditions as the court deems reasonable. After a hearing, probation may be revoked and the
71 suspended order executed.

72 3. When a child is found by the court to come within the provisions of subdivision (3)
73 of subsection 1 of section 211.031, the court shall so decree and make a finding of fact upon
74 which it exercises its jurisdiction over the child, and the court may, by order duly entered,
75 proceed as follows:

76 (1) Place the child under supervision in his **or her** own home or in custody of a relative
77 or other suitable person after the court or a public agency or institution designated by the court

78 conducts an investigation of the home, relative or person and finds such home, relative or person
79 to be suitable and upon such conditions as the court may require;

80 (2) Commit the child to the custody of:

81 (a) A public agency or institution authorized by law to care for children or to place them
82 in family homes;

83 (b) Any other institution or agency which is authorized or licensed by law to care for
84 children or to place them in family homes;

85 (c) An association, school or institution willing to receive it in another state if the
86 approval of the agency in that state which administers the laws relating to importation of children
87 into the state has been secured; or

88 (d) The juvenile officer;

89 (3) Beginning January 1, 1996, the court may make further directions as to placement
90 with the division of youth services concerning the child's length of stay. The length of stay order
91 may set forth a minimum review date;

92 (4) Place the child in a family home;

93 (5) Cause the child to be examined and treated by a physician, psychiatrist or
94 psychologist and when the health or condition of the child requires it, cause the child to be placed
95 in a public or private hospital, clinic or institution for treatment and care; except that, nothing
96 contained herein authorizes any form of compulsory medical, surgical, or psychiatric treatment
97 of a child whose parents or guardian in good faith are providing other remedial treatment
98 recognized or permitted under the laws of this state;

99 (6) Suspend or revoke a state or local license or authority of a child to operate a motor
100 vehicle;

101 (7) Order the child to make restitution or reparation for the damage or loss caused by his
102 offense. In determining the amount or extent of the damage, the court may order the juvenile
103 officer to prepare a report and may receive other evidence necessary for such determination. The
104 child and his attorney shall have access to any reports which may be prepared, and shall have the
105 right to present evidence at any hearing held to ascertain the amount of damages. Any restitution
106 or reparation ordered shall be reasonable in view of the child's ability to make payment or to
107 perform the reparation. The court may require the clerk of the circuit court to act as receiving
108 and disbursing agent for any payment ordered;

109 (8) Order the child to a term of community service under the supervision of the court or
110 of an organization selected by the court. Every person, organization, and agency, and each
111 employee thereof, charged with the supervision of a child under this subdivision, or who benefits
112 from any services performed as a result of an order issued under this subdivision, shall be
113 immune from any suit by the child ordered to perform services under this subdivision, or any

114 person deriving a cause of action from such child, if such cause of action arises from the
115 supervision of the child's performance of services under this subdivision and if such cause of
116 action does not arise from an intentional tort. A child ordered to perform services under this
117 subdivision shall not be deemed an employee within the meaning of the provisions of chapter
118 287, RSMo, nor shall the services of such child be deemed employment within the meaning of
119 the provisions of chapter 288, RSMo. Execution of any order entered by the court, including a
120 commitment to any state agency, may be suspended and the child placed on probation subject
121 to such conditions as the court deems reasonable. After a hearing, probation may be revoked and
122 the suspended order executed;

123 (9) When a child has been adjudicated to have violated a municipal ordinance or to have
124 committed an act that would be a misdemeanor if committed by an adult, assess an amount of
125 up to twenty-five dollars to be paid by the child to the clerk of the court; when a child has been
126 adjudicated to have committed an act that would be a felony if committed by an adult, assess an
127 amount of up to fifty dollars to be paid by the child to the clerk of the court.

128 4. Beginning January 1, 1996, the court may set forth in the order of commitment the
129 minimum period during which the child shall remain in the custody of the division of youth
130 services. No court order shall require a child to remain in the custody of the division of youth
131 services for a period which exceeds the child's eighteenth birth date except upon petition filed
132 by the division of youth services pursuant to subsection 1 of section 219.021, RSMo. In any
133 order of commitment of a child to the custody of the division of youth services, the division shall
134 determine the appropriate program or placement pursuant to subsection 3 of section 219.021,
135 RSMo. Beginning January 1, 1996, the department shall not discharge a child from the custody
136 of the division of youth services before the child completes the length of stay determined by the
137 court in the commitment order unless the committing court orders otherwise. The director of the
138 division of youth services may at any time petition the court for a review of a child's length of
139 stay commitment order, and the court may, upon a showing of good cause, order the early
140 discharge of the child from the custody of the division of youth services. The division may
141 discharge the child from the division of youth services without a further court order after the
142 child completes the length of stay determined by the court or may retain the child for any period
143 after the completion of the length of stay in accordance with the law.

144 5. When an assessment has been imposed under the provisions of subsection 2 or 3 of
145 this section, the assessment shall be paid to the clerk of the court in the circuit where the
146 assessment is imposed by court order, to be deposited in a fund established for the sole purpose
147 of payment of judgments entered against children in accordance with section 211.185.

**211.319. 1. On or before July 1, 2005, all juvenile court proceedings conducted
2 pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of section 211.031 and for termination of**

3 **parental rights cases pursuant to sections 211.442 to 211.487 initiated by a juvenile officer**
4 **or the division shall be open to the public. The court, on its own motion, may exclude for**
5 **good cause shown any person or persons from the proceedings to protect the welfare and**
6 **best interests of the child and for exceptional circumstances. Any party to a juvenile court**
7 **proceeding referred to in this subsection, except the state, may file a motion requesting that**
8 **the general public be excluded from the proceeding or any portion of the proceeding.**
9 **Upon the filing of such motion, the court shall hear arguments by the parties, but no**
10 **evidence, and shall make a determination whether closure is in the best interest of the**
11 **parties or whether it is in the public interest to deny such motion. The court shall make**
12 **a finding on the record when a motion to close a hearing pursuant to this section is made**
13 **and heard by the court.**

14 **2. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 1 of this section, the general public**
15 **shall be excluded from all juvenile court proceedings referred to in subsection 1 of this**
16 **section during the testimony of any child or victim and only such persons who have a direct**
17 **interest in the case or in the work of the court will be admitted to the proceedings.**

18 **3. For juvenile court proceedings described in subsection 1 of this section, pleadings**
19 **and orders of the juvenile court other than confidential files and those specifically ordered**
20 **closed by the juvenile court judge shall be open to the general public. For purposes of this**
21 **section, "confidential file" means all other records and reports considered closed or**
22 **confidential by law, including but not limited to medical reports, psychological or**
23 **psychiatric evaluations, investigation reports of the children's division, social histories,**
24 **home studies, and police reports and law enforcement records. Only persons who are**
25 **found by the court to have a legitimate interest shall be allowed access to confidential or**
26 **closed files. In determining whether a person has a legitimate interest, the court shall**
27 **consider the nature of the proceedings, the welfare and safety of the public, and the interest**
28 **of any child involved.**

29 **4. For records made available to the public pursuant to this section:**

30 **(1) The identity of any child involved except the perpetrator shall not be disclosed**
31 **and all references in such records to the identity of any child involved except the**
32 **perpetrator shall be redacted prior to disclosure to the public; and**

33 **(2) All information that may identify or lead to the disclosure of the identity of a**
34 **reporter of child abuse under sections 210.109 to 210.183, RSMo, and section 352.400,**
35 **RSMo, shall not be disclosed to the public.**

36 **5. The provisions of this section shall apply to juvenile court proceedings and**
37 **records specified in this section in which the initial pleadings are filed on or after July 1,**
38 **2005.**

211.321. 1. Records of juvenile court proceedings as well as all information obtained
2 and social records prepared in the discharge of official duty for the court shall not be open to
3 inspection or their contents disclosed, except by order of the court to persons having a legitimate
4 interest therein, unless a petition or motion to modify is sustained which charges the child with
5 an offense which, if committed by an adult, would be a class A felony under the criminal code
6 of Missouri, or capital murder, first degree murder, or second degree murder or except as
7 provided in subsection 2 of this section. In addition, whenever a report is required under section
8 557.026, RSMo, there shall also be included a complete list of certain violations of the juvenile
9 code for which the defendant had been adjudicated a delinquent while a juvenile. This list shall
10 be made available to the probation officer and shall be included in the presentence report. The
11 violations to be included in the report are limited to the following: rape, sodomy, murder,
12 kidnapping, robbery, arson, burglary or any acts involving the rendering or threat of serious
13 bodily harm. The supreme court may promulgate rules to be followed by the juvenile courts in
14 separating the records.

15 2. In all proceedings under [subdivisions (1) and] **subdivision** (2) of subsection 1 of
16 section 211.031, the records of the juvenile court as well as all information obtained and social
17 records prepared in the discharge of official duty for the court shall be kept confidential and shall
18 be open to inspection only by order of the judge of the juvenile court or as otherwise provided
19 by statute. In all proceedings under subdivision (3) of subsection 1 of section 211.031 the
20 records of the juvenile court as well as all information obtained and social records prepared in
21 the discharge of official duty for the court shall be kept confidential and may be open to
22 inspection without court order only as follows:

23 (1) The juvenile officer is authorized at any time:

24 (a) To provide information to or discuss matters concerning the child, the violation of
25 law or the case with the victim, witnesses, officials at the child's school, law enforcement
26 officials, prosecuting attorneys, any person or agency having or proposed to have legal or actual
27 care, custody or control of the child, or any person or agency providing or proposed to provide
28 treatment of the child. Information received pursuant to this paragraph shall not be released to
29 the general public, but shall be released only to the persons or agencies listed in this paragraph;

30 (b) To make public information concerning the offense, the substance of the petition, the
31 status of proceedings in the juvenile court and any other information which does not specifically
32 identify the child or the child's family;

33 (2) After a child has been adjudicated delinquent pursuant to subdivision (3) of
34 subsection 1 of section 211.031, for an offense which would be a felony if committed by an
35 adult, the records of the dispositional hearing and proceedings related thereto shall be open to
36 the public to the same extent that records of criminal proceedings are open to the public.

37 However, the social summaries, investigations or updates in the nature of presentence
38 investigations, and status reports submitted to the court by any treating agency or individual after
39 the dispositional order is entered shall be kept confidential and shall be opened to inspection only
40 by order of the judge of the juvenile court;

41 (3) As otherwise provided by statute;

42 (4) In all other instances, only by order of the judge of the juvenile court.

43 3. Peace officers' records, if any are kept, of children shall be kept separate from the
44 records of persons seventeen years of age or over and shall not be open to inspection or their
45 contents disclosed, except by order of the court. This subsection does not apply to children who
46 are transferred to courts of general jurisdiction as provided by section 211.071 or to juveniles
47 convicted under the provisions of sections 578.421 to 578.437, RSMo. This subsection does not
48 apply to the inspection or disclosure of the contents of the records of peace officers for the
49 purpose of pursuing a civil forfeiture action pursuant to the provisions of section 195.140,
50 RSMo.

51 4. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the release of information and
52 data to persons or organizations authorized by law to compile statistics relating to juveniles. The
53 court shall adopt procedures to protect the confidentiality of children's names and identities.

54 5. The court may, either on its own motion or upon application by the child or his
55 representative, or upon application by the juvenile officer, enter an order to destroy all social
56 histories, records, and information, other than the official court file, and may enter an order to
57 seal the official court file, as well as all peace officers' records, at any time after the child has
58 reached his seventeenth birthday if the court finds that it is in the best interest of the child that
59 such action or any part thereof be taken, unless the jurisdiction of the court is continued beyond
60 the child's seventeenth birthday, in which event such action or any part thereof may be taken by
61 the court at any time after the closing of the child's case.

62 6. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the release of general information
63 regarding the informal adjustment or formal adjudication of the disposition of a child's case to
64 a victim or a member of the immediate family of a victim of any offense committed by the child.
65 Such general information shall not be specific as to location and duration of treatment or
66 detention or as to any terms of supervision.

67 7. Records of juvenile court proceedings as well as all information obtained and social
68 records prepared in the discharge of official duty for the court shall be disclosed to the child
69 fatality review panel reviewing the child's death pursuant to section 210.192, RSMo, unless the
70 juvenile court on its own motion, or upon application by the juvenile officer, enters an order to
71 seal the records of the victim child.

302.272. 1. No person shall operate any school bus owned by or under contract with a public school or the state board of education unless such driver has qualified for a school bus permit under this section and complied with the pertinent rules and regulations of the department of revenue. A school bus permit shall be issued to any applicant who meets the following qualifications:

(1) The applicant has a valid state license issued under this chapter or has a license valid in any other state;

(2) The applicant is at least twenty-one years of age;

(3) The applicant has passed a medical examination, including vision and hearing tests, as prescribed by the director of revenue and, if the applicant is at least seventy years of age, the applicant shall pass the medical examination annually to maintain or renew the permit; and

(4) The applicant has successfully passed an examination for the operation of a school bus as prescribed by the director of revenue. The examination shall include, but need not be limited to, a written skills examination of applicable laws, rules and procedures, and a driving test in the type of vehicle to be operated. The test shall be completed in the appropriate class of vehicle to be driven. For purposes of this section classes of school buses shall comply with the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986 (Title XII of Pub. Law 99-570).

2. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a school bus permit shall be renewed every three years and shall require the applicant to provide a medical examination as specified in subdivision (3) of subsection 1 of this section and to successfully pass a written skills examination as prescribed by the director of revenue in consultation with the department of elementary and secondary education. If the applicant is at least seventy years of age, the school bus permit shall be renewed annually, and the applicant shall successfully pass the examination prescribed in subdivision (4) of subsection 1 of this section prior to receiving the renewed permit. The director may waive the written skills examination on renewal of a school bus permit upon verification of the applicant's successful completion within the preceding twelve months of a training program which has been approved by the director in consultation with the department of elementary and secondary education and which is at least eight hours in duration with special instruction in school bus driving.

3. The fee for a new or renewed school bus permit shall be three dollars.

4. Upon the applicant's completion of the requirements of subsections 1, 2, and 3 of this section, the director of revenue shall issue a temporary school bus permit to the applicant until such time as a permanent school bus permit shall be issued following the record clearance as provided in subsection 6 of this section.

5. The director of revenue, to the best of the director's knowledge, shall not issue or renew a school bus permit to any applicant:

37 (1) Whose driving record shows that such applicant's privilege to operate a motor vehicle
38 has been suspended, revoked or disqualified or whose driving record shows a history of moving
39 vehicle violations;

40 (2) Who has pled guilty to or been found guilty of any felony or misdemeanor for
41 violation of drug regulations as defined in chapter 195, RSMo; of any felony for an offense
42 against the person as defined by chapter 565, RSMo, or any other offense against the person
43 involving **child abuse** or the endangerment of a child as prescribed by law; of any misdemeanor
44 or felony for a sexual offense as defined by chapter 566, RSMo; of any misdemeanor or felony
45 for prostitution as defined by chapter 567, RSMo; of any misdemeanor or felony for an offense
46 against the family as defined in chapter 568, RSMo; of any felony or misdemeanor for a weapons
47 offense as defined by chapter 571, RSMo; of any misdemeanor or felony for pornography or
48 related offense as defined by chapter 573, RSMo; or of any similar crime in any federal, state,
49 municipal or other court of similar jurisdiction of which the director has knowledge;

50 (3) Who has pled guilty to or been found guilty of any felony involving robbery, arson,
51 burglary or a related offense as defined by chapter 569, RSMo; or any similar crime in any
52 federal, state, municipal or other court of similar jurisdiction within the preceding ten years of
53 which the director has knowledge;

54 **(4) Who is listed on the child abuse and neglect registry.**

55 6. The [department of social services or the] Missouri highway patrol[, whichever has
56 access to applicable records,] shall provide a record of clearance or denial of clearance for any
57 applicant for a school bus permit for the [convictions] **offenses** specified in subdivisions (2) and
58 (3) of subsection 5 of this section. The Missouri highway patrol in providing the record of
59 clearance or denial of clearance for any such applicant is authorized to obtain from the Federal
60 Bureau of Investigation any information which might aid the Missouri highway patrol in
61 providing such record of clearance or denial of clearance. The [department of social services or
62 the] Missouri highway patrol shall provide the record of clearance or denial of clearance within
63 thirty days of the date requested, relying on information available at that time, except that the
64 [department of social services or the] Missouri highway patrol shall provide any information
65 subsequently discovered to the department of revenue.

66 **7. Beginning January 1, 2005, the director shall request that the department of**
67 **social services determine whether the applicant is listed on the child abuse and neglect**
68 **registry and shall require the applicant to submit two sets of fingerprints. One set of**
69 **fingerprints shall be used by the highway patrol in order to search the criminal history**
70 **repository and the second set shall be forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for**
71 **searching the federal criminal history files.**

72 **8. The applicant shall pay the fee for the state criminal history information**
73 **pursuant to section 43.530, RSMo, and pay the appropriate fee determined by the Federal**
74 **Bureau of Investigation for the federal criminal history record when he or she applies for**
75 **the school bus permit pursuant to this section. The director shall distribute the fees**
76 **collected for the state and federal criminal histories to the highway patrol.**

77 **9. If, as a result of the criminal history background check and the check of the child**
78 **abuse and neglect registry required by this section, it is determined that an applicant has**
79 **pled guilty or nolo contendere to, or been found guilty of an offense listed in subdivisions**
80 **(2) and (3) of subsection 5 of this section, or a similar offense if committed in any other**
81 **state, the United States, or any other country, regardless of imposition of sentence, or the**
82 **applicant's name appears on the child abuse and neglect registry the director of revenue**
83 **shall not issue or renew a school bus permit to such applicant.**

84 **10. The director may adopt any rules and regulations necessary to carry out the**
85 **provisions of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section**
86 **536.010, RSMo, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become**
87 **effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536,**
88 **RSMo, and, if applicable, section 536.028, RSMo. This section and chapter 536, RSMo, are**
89 **nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to**
90 **chapter 536, RSMo, to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule**
91 **are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any**
92 **rule proposed or adopted after the effective date of this section, shall be invalid and void.**

431.056. 1. A minor shall be qualified and competent to contract for housing,
2 employment, purchase of an automobile, receipt of a student loan, admission to high school or
3 postsecondary school, obtaining medical care, establishing a bank account and admission to a
4 shelter for victims of domestic violence, as defined in section 455.200, RSMo, or a homeless
5 shelter if:

6 (1) The minor is sixteen or seventeen years of age; and

7 (2) The minor is homeless, as defined in [subdivisions (1), (2) and (3) of] subsection 1
8 of section 167.020, RSMo, or a victim of domestic violence, as defined in section 455.200,
9 RSMo, unless the child is under the supervision of the **children's** division [of family services]
10 or the jurisdiction of the juvenile court; and

11 (3) The minor is self-supporting, **such that the minor is without the physical or**
12 **financial support of a parent or legal guardian;** and

13 (4) The minor's [parents have] **parent or legal guardian has** consented to the minor
14 living independent of the parents' **or guardians'** control. **Consent may be expressed or**
15 **implied, such that:**

16 **(1) Expressed consent is any verbal or written statement made by the parents or**
17 **guardian of the minor displaying approval or agreement that the minor may live**
18 **independently of the parent's or guardian's control;**

19 **(2) Implied consent is any action made by the parent or guardian of the minor that**
20 **indicates the parent or guardian is unwilling or unable to adequately care for the minor.**
21 **Such actions may include, but are not limited to:**

22 **(a) Barring the minor from the home or otherwise indicating that the minor is not**
23 **welcome to stay;**

24 **(b) Refusing to provide any or all financial support for the minor; or**

25 **(c) Abusing or neglecting the minor, as defined in section 210.110, RSMo.**

452.375. 1. As used in this chapter, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

2 (1) "Custody", means joint legal custody, sole legal custody, joint physical custody or
3 sole physical custody or any combination thereof;

4 (2) "Joint legal custody" means that the parents share the decision-making rights,
5 responsibilities, and authority relating to the health, education and welfare of the child, and,
6 unless allocated, apportioned, or decreed, the parents shall confer with one another in the
7 exercise of decision-making rights, responsibilities, and authority;

8 (3) "Joint physical custody" means an order awarding each of the parents significant, but
9 not necessarily equal, periods of time during which a child resides with or is under the care and
10 supervision of each of the parents. Joint physical custody shall be shared by the parents in such
11 a way as to assure the child of frequent, continuing and meaningful contact with both parents;

12 (4) "Third-party custody" means a third party designated as a legal and physical
13 custodian pursuant to subdivision (5) of subsection 5 of this section.

14 2. The court shall determine custody in accordance with the best interests of the child.
15 The court shall consider all relevant factors including:

16 (1) The wishes of the child's parents as to custody and the proposed parenting plan
17 submitted by both parties;

18 (2) The needs of the child for a frequent, continuing and meaningful relationship with
19 both parents and the ability and willingness of parents to actively perform their functions as
20 mother and father for the needs of the child;

21 (3) The interaction and interrelationship of the child with parents, siblings, and any other
22 person who may significantly affect the child's best interests;

23 (4) Which parent is more likely to allow the child frequent, continuing and meaningful
24 contact with the other parent;

25 (5) The child's adjustment to the child's home, school, and community;

26 (6) The mental and physical health of all individuals involved, including any history of
27 abuse of any individuals involved. If the court finds that a pattern of domestic violence has
28 occurred, and, if the court also finds that awarding custody to the abusive parent is in the best
29 interest of the child, then the court shall enter written findings of fact and conclusions of law.
30 Custody and visitation rights shall be ordered in a manner that best protects the child **and any**
31 **other child or children for whom the parent has custodial or visitation rights**, and the parent
32 or other family or household member who is the victim of domestic violence from any further
33 harm;

34 (7) The intention of either parent to relocate the principal residence of the child; and

35 (8) The wishes of a child as to the child's custodian.

36

37 The fact that a parent sends his or her child or children to a home school, as defined in section
38 167.031, RSMo, shall not be the sole factor that a court considers in determining custody of such
39 child or children.

40 3. **In any court proceedings relating to custody of a child**, the court shall not award
41 custody **or unsupervised visitation** of a child to a parent if such parent **or any person residing**
42 **with such parent** has been found guilty of, or pled guilty to, a felony violation of chapter 566,
43 RSMo, **except for section 566.034, RSMo**, when [the] a child was the victim, or a violation of
44 [chapter 568, RSMo, except for section 568.040] **section 568.020, 568.045, 568.060, 568.065,**
45 **568.070, 568.080, 568.090, or 568.175, RSMo, except for subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of**
46 **section 568.060, RSMo**, when [the] a child was the victim, **or an offense committed in another**
47 **state when a child is the victim, that would be a felony violation of chapter 566, RSMo,**
48 **except for section 566.034, RSMo, or section 568.020, 568.045, 568.060, 568.065, 568.070,**
49 **568.080, 568.090, or 568.175, RSMo, except for subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of section**
50 **568.060, RSMo, if committed in Missouri; provided however, nothing in this subsection**
51 **shall preclude the court from exercising its discretion regarding the awarding of custody**
52 **or visitation for child if the parent or any person residing in the home has been found**
53 **guilty of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any offense excepted or excluded in this**
54 **subsection.**

55 4. The general assembly finds and declares that it is the public policy of this state that
56 frequent, continuing and meaningful contact with both parents after the parents have separated
57 or dissolved their marriage is in the best interest of the child, except for cases where the court
58 specifically finds that such contact is not in the best interest of the child, and that it is the public
59 policy of this state to encourage parents to participate in decisions affecting the health, education
60 and welfare of their children, and to resolve disputes involving their children amicably through
61 alternative dispute resolution. In order to effectuate these policies, the court shall determine the

62 custody arrangement which will best assure both parents participate in such decisions and have
63 frequent, continuing and meaningful contact with their children so long as it is in the best
64 interests of the child.

65 5. Prior to awarding the appropriate custody arrangement in the best interest of the child,
66 the court shall consider each of the following as follows:

67 (1) Joint physical and joint legal custody to both parents, which shall not be denied
68 solely for the reason that one parent opposes a joint physical and joint legal custody award. The
69 residence of one of the parents shall be designated as the address of the child for mailing and
70 educational purposes;

71 (2) Joint physical custody with one party granted sole legal custody. The residence of
72 one of the parents shall be designated as the address of the child for mailing and educational
73 purposes;

74 (3) Joint legal custody with one party granted sole physical custody;

75 (4) Sole custody to either parent; or

76 (5) Third-party custody or visitation:

77 (a) When the court finds that each parent is unfit, unsuitable, or unable to be a custodian,
78 or the welfare of the child requires, and it is in the best interests of the child, then custody,
79 temporary custody or visitation may be awarded to any other person or persons deemed by the
80 court to be suitable and able to provide an adequate and stable environment for the child. Before
81 the court awards custody, temporary custody or visitation to a third person under this
82 subdivision, the court shall make that person a party to the action;

83 (b) Under the provisions of this subsection, any person may petition the court to
84 intervene as a party in interest at any time as provided by supreme court rule.

85 6. If the parties have not agreed to a custodial arrangement, or the court determines such
86 arrangement is not in the best interest of the child, the court shall include a written finding in the
87 judgment or order based on the public policy in subsection 4 of this section and each of the
88 factors listed in subdivisions (1) to (8) of subsection 2 of this section detailing the specific
89 relevant factors that made a particular arrangement in the best interest of the child. If a proposed
90 custodial arrangement is rejected by the court, the court shall include a written finding in the
91 judgment or order detailing the specific relevant factors resulting in the rejection of such
92 arrangement.

93 7. Upon a finding by the court that either parent has refused to exchange information
94 with the other parent, which shall include but not be limited to information concerning the
95 health, education and welfare of the child, the court shall order the parent to comply immediately
96 and to pay the prevailing party a sum equal to the prevailing party's cost associated with

97 obtaining the requested information, which shall include but not be limited to reasonable
98 attorney's fees and court costs.

99 8. As between the parents of a child, no preference may be given to either parent in the
100 awarding of custody because of that parent's age, sex, or financial status, nor because of the age
101 or sex of the child.

102 9. Any judgment providing for custody shall include a specific written parenting plan
103 setting forth the terms of such parenting plan arrangements specified in subsection 7 of section
104 452.310. Such plan may be a parenting plan submitted by the parties pursuant to section 452.310
105 or, in the absence thereof, a plan determined by the court, but in all cases, the custody plan
106 approved and ordered by the court shall be in the court's discretion and shall be in the best
107 interest of the child.

108 10. Unless a parent has been denied custody rights pursuant to this section or visitation
109 rights under section 452.400, both parents shall have access to records and information
110 pertaining to a minor child, including, but not limited to, medical, dental, and school records.
111 If the parent without custody has been granted restricted or supervised visitation because the
112 court has found that the parent with custody or [the] **any** child has been the victim of domestic
113 violence, as defined in section 455.200, RSMo, by the parent without custody, the court may
114 order that the reports and records made available pursuant to this subsection not include the
115 address of the parent with custody or the child. Unless a parent has been denied custody rights
116 pursuant to this section or visitation rights under section 452.400, any judgment of dissolution
117 or other applicable court order shall specifically allow both parents access to such records and
118 reports.

119 11. Except as otherwise precluded by state or federal law, if any individual, professional,
120 public or private institution or organization denies access or fails to provide or disclose any and
121 all records and information, including, but not limited to, past and present dental, medical and
122 school records pertaining to a minor child, to either parent upon the written request of such
123 parent, the court shall, upon its finding that the individual, professional, public or private
124 institution or organization denied such request without good cause, order that party to comply
125 immediately with such request and to pay to the prevailing party all costs incurred, including, but
126 not limited to, attorney's fees and court costs associated with obtaining the requested information.

127 12. An award of joint custody does not preclude an award of child support pursuant to
128 section 452.340 and applicable supreme court rules. The court shall consider the factors
129 contained in section 452.340 and applicable supreme court rules in determining an amount
130 reasonable or necessary for the support of the child.

131 13. If the court finds that domestic violence or abuse, as defined in sections 455.010 and
132 455.501, RSMo, has occurred, the court shall make specific findings of fact to show that the

133 custody or visitation arrangement ordered by the court best protects the child and the parent or
134 other family or household member who is the victim of domestic violence or abuse, as defined
135 in sections 455.010 and 455.501, RSMo, **and any other children for whom such parent has**
136 **custodial or visitation rights** from any further harm.

452.400. 1. A parent not granted custody of the child is entitled to reasonable visitation
2 rights unless the court finds, after a hearing, that visitation would endanger the child's physical
3 health or impair his **or her** emotional development. The court shall enter an order specifically
4 detailing the visitation rights of the parent without physical custody rights **to the child and any**
5 **other children for whom such parent has custodial or visitation rights**. In determining the
6 granting of visitation rights, the court shall consider evidence of domestic violence. If the court
7 finds that domestic violence has occurred, the court may find that granting visitation to the
8 abusive party is in the best interests of the child. The court shall not grant visitation to the parent
9 not granted custody if such parent **or any person residing with such parent** has been found
10 guilty of or pled guilty to a felony violation of chapter 566, RSMo, **except for section 566.034,**
11 **RSMo**, when [the] a child was the victim, or a violation of [chapter 568, RSMo, except for
12 section 568.040] **section 568.020, 568.045, 568.060, 568.065, 568.070, 568.080, 568.090, or**
13 **568.175, RSMo, except for subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of section 568.060**, RSMo, when
14 [the] a child was the victim, or an offense committed in another state[,] when [the] a child is the
15 victim, that would be a felony violation of chapter 566, RSMo, **except for section 566.034,**
16 **RSMo**, or chapter [568, RSMo, except for section 568.040] **section 568.020, 568.045, 568.060,**
17 **568.065, 568.070, 568.080, 568.090, or 568.175, RSMo, except for subdivision (1) of**
18 **subsection 1 of section 568.060**, RSMo, if committed in Missouri; **provided however, nothing**
19 **in this subsection shall preclude the court from exercising its discretion regarding the**
20 **awarding of custody or visitation for child if the parent or any person residing in the home**
21 **has been found guilty of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any offense excepted or**
22 **excluded in this subsection**. The court shall consider the parent's history of inflicting, or
23 tendency to inflict, physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or the fear of physical harm, bodily
24 injury, or assault on other persons and shall grant visitation in a manner that best protects the
25 child and the parent or other family or household member who is the victim of domestic
26 violence, **and any other children for whom the parent has custodial or visitation rights** from
27 any further harm. The court, if requested by a party, shall make specific findings of fact to show
28 that the visitation arrangements made by the court best protect the child or the parent or other
29 family or household member who is the victim of domestic violence, **or any other child for**
30 **whom the parent has custodial or visitation rights** from any further harm.

31 2. The court may modify an order granting or denying visitation rights whenever
32 modification would serve the best interests of the child, but the court shall not restrict a parent's

33 visitation rights unless it finds that the visitation would endanger the child's physical health or
34 impair his or her emotional development. **In any proceeding modifying visitation rights, the**
35 **court shall not grant unsupervised visitation to a parent if the parent or any person**
36 **residing with such parent has been found guilty of or pled guilty to a felony violation of**
37 **chapter 566, RSMo, except for section 566.034, RSMo, when a child was the victim, or a**
38 **violation of sections 568.020, 568.045, 568.060, 568.065, 568.070, 568.080, 568.090, and**
39 **568.175, RSMo, except for subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of section 568.060, RSMo, when**
40 **a child was the victim, or an offense committed in another state when a child is the victim,**
41 **that would be a felony violation of chapter 566, RSMo, except for section 566.034, RSMo,**
42 **or a violation of sections 568.020, 568.045, 568.060, 568.065, 568.070, 568.080, 568.090, and**
43 **568.175, RSMo, except for subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of section 568.060, RSMo, if**
44 **committed in Missouri; provided however, nothing in this subsection shall preclude the**
45 **court from exercising its discretion regarding the placement of child in a home in which**
46 **the parent or any person residing in the home has been found guilty of, or pled guilty or**
47 **nolo contendere to any offense excepted or excluded in this subsection.** When a court
48 restricts a parent's visitation rights or when a court orders supervised visitation because of
49 allegations of abuse or domestic violence, a showing of proof of treatment and rehabilitation
50 shall be made to the court before unsupervised visitation may be ordered. "Supervised
51 visitation", as used in this section, is visitation which takes place in the presence of a responsible
52 adult appointed by the court for the protection of the child.

53 3. The court shall mandate compliance with its order by all parties to the action,
54 including parents, children and third parties. In the event of noncompliance, the aggrieved
55 person may file a verified motion for contempt. If custody, visitation or third-party custody is
56 denied or interfered with by a parent or third party without good cause, the aggrieved person may
57 file a family access motion with the court stating the specific facts which constitute a violation
58 of the judgment of dissolution or legal separation. The state courts administrator shall develop
59 a simple form for pro se motions to the aggrieved person, which shall be provided to the person
60 by the circuit clerk. Clerks, under the supervision of a circuit clerk, shall explain to aggrieved
61 parties the procedures for filing the form. Notice of the fact that clerks will provide such
62 assistance shall be conspicuously posted in the clerk's offices. The location of the office where
63 the family access motion may be filed shall be conspicuously posted in the court building. The
64 performance of duties described in this section shall not constitute the practice of law as defined
65 in section 484.010, RSMo. Such form for pro se motions shall not require the assistance of legal
66 counsel to prepare and file. The cost of filing the motion shall be the standard court costs
67 otherwise due for instituting a civil action in the circuit court.

68 4. Within five court days after the filing of the family access motion pursuant to
69 subsection 3 of this section, the clerk of the court shall issue a summons pursuant to applicable
70 state law, and applicable local or supreme court rules. A copy of the motion shall be personally
71 served upon the respondent by personal process server as provided by law or by any sheriff.
72 Such service shall be served at the earliest time and shall take priority over service in other civil
73 actions, except those of an emergency nature or those filed pursuant to chapter 455, RSMo. The
74 motion shall contain the following statement in boldface type: "PURSUANT TO SECTION
75 452.400, RSMO, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO RESPOND TO THE CIRCUIT CLERK WITHIN
76 TEN DAYS OF THE DATE OF SERVICE. FAILURE TO RESPOND TO THE CIRCUIT
77 CLERK MAY RESULT IN THE FOLLOWING:

78 (1) AN ORDER FOR A COMPENSATORY PERIOD OF CUSTODY, VISITATION
79 OR THIRD-PARTY CUSTODY AT A TIME CONVENIENT FOR THE AGGRIEVED
80 PARTY NOT LESS THAN THE PERIOD OF TIME DENIED;

81 (2) PARTICIPATION BY THE VIOLATOR IN COUNSELING TO EDUCATE THE
82 VIOLATOR ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF PROVIDING THE CHILD WITH A
83 CONTINUING AND MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH BOTH PARENTS;

84 (3) ASSESSMENT OF A FINE OF UP TO FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS AGAINST
85 THE VIOLATOR;

86 (4) REQUIRING THE VIOLATOR TO POST BOND OR SECURITY TO ENSURE
87 FUTURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE COURT'S ORDERS;

88 (5) ORDERING THE VIOLATOR TO PAY THE COST OF COUNSELING TO
89 REESTABLISH THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE AGGRIEVED
90 PARTY AND THE CHILD; AND

91 (6) A JUDGMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT LESS THAN THE REASONABLE
92 EXPENSES, INCLUDING ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COURT COSTS ACTUALLY
93 INCURRED BY THE AGGRIEVED PARTY AS A RESULT OF THE DENIAL OF
94 CUSTODY, VISITATION OR THIRD-PARTY CUSTODY."

95 5. If an alternative dispute resolution program is available pursuant to section 452.372,
96 the clerk shall also provide information to all parties on the availability of any such services, and
97 within fourteen days of the date of service, the court may schedule alternative dispute resolution.

98 6. Upon a finding by the court pursuant to a motion for a family access order or a motion
99 for contempt that its order for custody, visitation or third-party custody has not been complied
100 with, without good cause, the court shall order a remedy, which may include, but not be limited
101 to:

102 (1) A compensatory period of visitation, custody or third-party custody at a time
103 convenient for the aggrieved party not less than the period of time denied;

104 (2) Participation by the violator in counseling to educate the violator about the
105 importance of providing the child with a continuing and meaningful relationship with both
106 parents;

107 (3) Assessment of a fine of up to five hundred dollars against the violator payable to the
108 aggrieved party;

109 (4) Requiring the violator to post bond or security to ensure future compliance with the
110 court's access orders; and

111 (5) Ordering the violator to pay the cost of counseling to reestablish the parent-child
112 relationship between the aggrieved party and the child.

113 7. The reasonable expenses incurred as a result of denial or interference with custody or
114 visitation, including attorney's fees and costs of a proceeding to enforce visitation rights, custody
115 or third-party custody, shall be assessed, if requested and for good cause, against the parent or
116 party who unreasonably denies or interferes with visitation, custody or third-party custody. In
117 addition, the court may utilize any and all powers relating to contempt conferred on it by law or
118 rule of the Missouri supreme court.

119 8. Final disposition of a motion for a family access order filed pursuant to this section
120 shall take place not more than sixty days after the service of such motion, unless waived by the
121 parties or determined to be in the best interest of the child. Final disposition shall not include
122 appellate review.

123 9. Motions filed pursuant to this section shall not be deemed an independent civil action
124 from the original action pursuant to which the judgment or order sought to be enforced was
125 entered.

452.402. 1. The court may grant reasonable visitation rights to the grandparents of the
2 child and issue any necessary orders to enforce the decree. The court may grant grandparent
3 visitation when:

4 (1) The parents of the child have filed for a dissolution of their marriage. A grandparent
5 shall have the right to intervene in any dissolution action solely on the issue of visitation rights.
6 Grandparents shall also have the right to file a motion to modify the original decree of
7 dissolution to seek visitation rights when [such rights have] **visitation has** been denied to them;
8 **or**

9 (2) One parent of the child is deceased and the surviving parent denies reasonable
10 visitation [rights] to a parent of the deceased parent of the child; **or**

11 (3) The child has resided in the grandparent's home for at least six months within the
12 twenty-four month period immediately preceding the filing of the petition; **and**

13 (4) A grandparent is unreasonably denied visitation with the child for a period exceeding
14 ninety days. However, if the natural parents are legally married to each other and are living

15 together with the child, a grandparent may not file for visitation pursuant to this subdivision];
16 or

17 (5) The child is adopted by a stepparent, another grandparent or other blood relative].

18 2. The court shall determine if the visitation by the grandparent would be in the child's
19 best interest or if it would endanger the child's physical health or impair the child's emotional
20 development. Visitation may only be ordered when the court finds such visitation to be in the
21 best interests of the child. However, when the parents of the child are legally married to each
22 other and are living together with the child, it shall be a rebuttable presumption that such parents
23 know what is in the best interest of the child. The court may order reasonable conditions or
24 restrictions on grandparent visitation.

25 3. If the court finds it to be in the best interests of the child, the court may appoint a
26 guardian ad litem for the child. The guardian ad litem shall be an attorney licensed to practice
27 law in Missouri. The guardian ad litem may, for the purpose of determining the question of
28 grandparent visitation rights, participate in the proceedings as if such guardian ad litem were a
29 party. The court shall enter judgment allowing a reasonable fee to the guardian ad litem.

30 4. A home study, as described by section 452.390, may be ordered by the court to assist
31 in determining the best interests of the child.

32 5. The court may, in its discretion, consult with the child regarding the child's wishes in
33 determining the best interest of the child.

34 6. The right of a grandparent to [seek or] maintain visitation rights pursuant to this
35 section may terminate upon the adoption of the child.

36 7. The court may award reasonable attorneys fees and expenses to the prevailing party.

452.423. 1. In all proceedings for child custody or for dissolution of marriage or legal
2 separation where custody, visitation, or support of a child is a contested issue, the court may
3 appoint a guardian ad litem. [The court shall appoint a guardian ad litem in any proceeding in
4 which child abuse or neglect is alleged.] Disqualification of a guardian ad litem shall be ordered
5 in any legal proceeding only pursuant to [chapter 210, RSMo, or] this chapter, upon the filing
6 of a written application by any party within ten days of appointment, or within ten days of
7 August 28, 1998, if the appointment occurs prior to August 28, 1998. Each party shall be
8 entitled to one disqualification of a guardian ad litem **appointed under this subsection** in each
9 proceeding, except a party may be entitled to additional disqualifications of a guardian ad litem
10 for good cause shown.

11 2. **The court shall appoint a guardian ad litem in any proceeding in which child**
12 **abuse or neglect is alleged.**

13 3. The guardian ad litem shall:

14 (1) Be the legal representative of the child at the hearing, and may examine,
15 cross-examine, subpoena witnesses and offer testimony;

16 (2) Prior to the hearing, conduct all necessary interviews with persons having contact
17 with or knowledge of the child in order to ascertain the child's wishes, feelings, attachments and
18 attitudes. If appropriate, the child should be interviewed;

19 (3) Request the juvenile officer to cause a petition to be filed in the juvenile division of
20 the circuit court if the guardian ad litem believes the child alleged to be abused or neglected is
21 in danger.

22 [3.] 4. The appointing judge shall require the guardian ad litem to faithfully discharge
23 such guardian ad litem's duties, and upon failure to do so shall discharge such guardian ad litem
24 and appoint another. The judge in making appointments pursuant to this section shall give
25 preference to persons who served as guardian ad litem for the child in the earlier proceeding,
26 unless there is a reason on the record for not giving such preference.

27 [4.] 5. The guardian ad litem shall be awarded a reasonable fee for such services to be
28 set by the court. The court, in its discretion, may award such fees as a judgment to be paid by
29 any party to the proceedings or from public funds. Such an award of guardian fees shall
30 constitute a final judgment in favor of the guardian ad litem. Such final judgment shall be
31 enforceable against the parties in accordance with chapter 513, RSMo.

32 [5.] 6. The court may designate volunteer advocates, who may or may not be attorneys
33 licensed to practice law, to assist in the performance of the guardian ad litem duties for the court.
34 The volunteer advocate shall be provided with all reports relevant to the case made to or by any
35 agency or person and shall have access to all records of such agencies or persons relating to the
36 child or such child's family members. Any such designated person shall receive no compensation
37 from public funds. This shall not preclude reimbursement for reasonable expenses.

452.455. 1. Any petition for modification of child custody decrees filed under the
2 provisions of section 452.410, or sections 452.440 to 452.450, shall be verified and, if the
3 original proceeding originated in the state of Missouri, shall be filed in that original case, but
4 service shall be obtained and responsive pleadings may be filed as in any original proceeding.

5 2. Before making a decree under the provisions of section 452.410, or sections 452.440
6 to 452.450, the litigants, any parent whose parental rights have not been previously terminated,
7 and any person who has physical custody of the child must be served in the manner provided by
8 the rules of civil procedure and applicable court rules and may within thirty days after the date
9 of service (forty-five days if service by publication) file a verified answer.

10 If any of these persons is outside this state, notice and opportunity to be heard shall be given
11 pursuant to section 452.460.

12 **3. In any case in which the paternity of a child has been determined by a court of**
13 **competent jurisdiction and where the noncustodial parent is delinquent in the payment of**
14 **child support in an amount in excess of ten thousand dollars, the custodial parent shall**
15 **have the right to petition a court of competent jurisdiction for the termination of the**
16 **parental rights of the noncustodial parent.**

17 **4. When a person filing a petition for modification of a child custody decree owes**
18 **past due child support to a custodial parent in an amount in excess of ten thousand dollars,**
19 **such person shall post a bond in the amount of past due child support owed as ascertained**
20 **by the division of child support enforcement or reasonable legal fees of the custodial**
21 **parent, whichever is greater, before the filing of the petition. The court shall hold the bond**
22 **in escrow until the modification proceedings pursuant to this section have been concluded**
23 **wherein such bond shall be transmitted to the division of child support enforcement for**
24 **disbursement to the custodial parent.**

453.020. 1. The petition for adoption shall state:

2 (1) The name, sex and place of birth of the person sought to be adopted;

3 (2) The name of his parents, if known to the petitioner;

4 (3) If the person sought to be adopted is a minor, the fact that petitioner has the ability
5 to properly care for, maintain and educate such person; and

6 (4) If it is desired to change the name of such person, the new name.

7 **2. The petition for adoption shall include payment of a fifty dollar filing fee which**
8 **shall be used to fund the putative father registry established pursuant to section 192.016,**
9 **RSMo.**

453.025. 1. The court shall, in all cases where the person sought to be adopted is under
2 eighteen years of age, appoint a guardian ad litem, if not previously appointed pursuant to section
3 210.160, RSMo, to represent the person sought to be adopted.

4 2. When the parent is a minor or incompetent, the court shall appoint a guardian ad litem
5 to represent such parent.

6 **3. The guardian ad litem may be awarded a reasonable fee for such services to be**
7 **set by the court. The court, in its discretion, may award such fees as a judgment to be paid**
8 **by any party to the proceedings or from public funds. Such an award of guardian fees**
9 **shall constitute a final judgment in favor of the guardian ad litem. Such final judgment**
10 **shall be enforceable against the parties in accordance with chapter 513, RSMo.**

11 **4. The guardian ad litem shall:**

12 (1) Be the legal advocate for the best interest of the party he is appointed to represent
13 with the power and authority to cross-examine, subpoena witnesses, and offer testimony;

14 (2) Initiate an appeal of any disposition that he determines to be adverse to the interests
15 of the party he represents; and

16 (3) Ascertain the child's wishes, feelings and attitudes regarding the adoption by
17 interviewing persons with knowledge of the child, and if appropriate, to meet with the child.

453.030. 1. In all cases the approval of the court of the adoption shall be required and
2 such approval shall be given or withheld as the welfare of the person sought to be adopted may,
3 in the opinion of the court, demand.

4 2. The written consent of the person to be adopted shall be required in all cases where
5 the person sought to be adopted is fourteen years of age or older, except where the court finds
6 that such child has not sufficient mental capacity to give the same.

7 3. With the exceptions specifically enumerated in section 453.040, when the person
8 sought to be adopted is under the age of eighteen years, the written consent of the following
9 persons shall be required and filed in and made a part of the files and record of the proceeding:

10 (1) The mother of the child; and

11 (2) [Any] **Only the** man who:

12 (a) Is presumed to be the father pursuant to the subdivision (1), (2), or (3) of subsection
13 1 of section 210.822, RSMo; or

14 (b) Has filed an action to establish his paternity in a court of competent jurisdiction no
15 later than fifteen days after the birth of the child **and has served a copy of the petition on the**
16 **mother in accordance with section 506.100, RSMo;** or

17 (c) Filed with the putative father registry pursuant to section 192.016, RSMo, a notice
18 of intent to claim paternity or an acknowledgment of paternity either prior to or within fifteen
19 days after the child's birth, and has filed an action to establish his paternity in a court of
20 competent jurisdiction no later than fifteen days after the birth of the child; or

21 (3) The child's current adoptive parents or other legally recognized mother and father.

22

23 Upon request by the petitioner and within one business day of such request, the clerk of the local
24 court shall verify whether such written consents have been filed with the court.

25 4. The written consent required in subdivisions (2) and (3) of subsection 3 of this section
26 may be executed before or after the commencement of the adoption proceedings, and shall be
27 acknowledged before a notary public. In lieu of such acknowledgment, the signature of the
28 person giving such written consent shall be witnessed by the signatures of at least two adult
29 persons whose signatures and addresses shall be plainly written thereon. The two adult witnesses
30 shall not be the prospective adoptive parents or any attorney representing a party to the adoption
31 proceeding. The notary public or witnesses shall verify the identity of the party signing the
32 consent.

33 5. The written consent required in subdivision (1) of subsection 3 of this section by the
34 birth parent shall not be executed anytime before the child is forty-eight hours old. Such written
35 consent shall be executed in front of a judge or a notary public. In lieu of such acknowledgment,
36 the signature of the person giving such written consent shall be witnessed by the signatures of
37 at least two adult persons who are present at the execution whose signatures and addresses shall
38 be plainly written thereon and who determine and certify that the consent is knowingly and freely
39 given. The two adult witnesses shall not be the prospective adoptive parents or any attorney
40 representing a party to the adoption proceeding. The notary public or witnesses shall verify the
41 identity of the party signing the consent.

42 6. The written consents shall be reviewed and, if found to be in compliance with this
43 section, approved by the court within three business days of such consents being presented to the
44 court. Upon review, in lieu of approving the consent within three business days, the court may
45 set a date for a prompt evidentiary hearing upon notice to the parties. Failure to review and
46 approve the written consent within three business days shall not void the consent, but a party may
47 seek a writ of mandamus from the appropriate court, unless an evidentiary hearing has been set
48 by the court pursuant to this subsection.

49 7. The written consent required in subsection 3 of this section may be withdrawn anytime
50 until it has been reviewed and accepted by a judge.

51 8. A consent form shall be developed through rules and regulations promulgated by the
52 department of social services. No rule or portion of a rule promulgated under the authority of
53 this section shall become effective unless it has been promulgated pursuant to the provisions of
54 chapter 536, RSMo. If a written consent is obtained after August 28, 1997, but prior to the
55 development of a consent form by the department and the written consent complies with the
56 provisions of subsection 9 of this section, such written consent shall be deemed valid.

57 9. However, the consent form must specify that:

58 (1) The birth parent understands the importance of identifying all possible fathers of the
59 child and [shall] **may** provide the names of all such persons [unless the mother has good cause
60 as to why she should not name such persons. The court shall determine if good cause is
61 justifiable. By signing the consent, the birth parent acknowledges that those having an interest
62 in the child have been supplied with all available information to assist in locating all possible
63 fathers]; and

64 (2) The birth parent understands that if he denies paternity, but consents to the adoption,
65 he waives any future interest in the child.

66 10. The written consent to adoption required by subsection 3 and executed through
67 procedures set forth in subsection 5 of this section shall be valid and effective even though the

68 parent consenting was under eighteen years of age, if such parent was represented by a guardian
69 ad litem, at the time of the execution thereof.

70 11. Where the person sought to be adopted is eighteen years of age or older, his written
71 consent alone to his adoption shall be sufficient.

72 12. A birth parent, including a birth parent less than eighteen years of age, shall have the
73 right to legal representation and payment of any reasonable legal fees incurred throughout the
74 adoption process. In addition, the court may appoint an attorney to represent a birth parent if:

75 (1) A birth parent requests representation;

76 (2) The court finds that hiring an attorney to represent such birth parent would cause a
77 financial hardship for the birth parent; and

78 (3) The birth parent is not already represented by counsel.

79 13. Except in cases where the court determines that the adoptive parents are unable to
80 pay reasonable attorney fees and appoints pro bono counsel for the birth parents, the court shall
81 order the costs of the attorney fees incurred pursuant to subsection 12 of this section to be paid
82 by the prospective adoptive parents or the child-placing agency.

453.060. 1. A writ of summons and a copy of the petition shall be served on:

2 (1) Any person, agency, organization or institution whose consent to the adoption is
3 required by law unless such consent is filed in court;

4 (2) Any person whose consent to the adoption, according to the allegation of the petition
5 for adoption, is not required for the reasons set forth in subdivision (6) or (7) of section 453.040;

6 (3) Any person, agency, organization or institution, within or without the state, having
7 custody of the child sought to be adopted under a decree of a court of competent jurisdiction
8 even though its consent to the adoption is not required by law;

9 (4) The legally appointed guardian of the child;

10 (5) Any person adjudicated by a court of this state or another state, a territory of the
11 United States or another country to be the father of the child;

12 (6) Any person who has timely filed a notice of intent to claim paternity of the child
13 pursuant to section 192.016, RSMo, or an acknowledgment of paternity pursuant to section
14 193.087, RSMo.

15 2. Except as provided in this section and section 453.014, it is not necessary to serve any
16 person, agency, organization or institution whose consent is not required pursuant to the
17 provisions of sections 453.030 to 453.050.

18 3. If service of summons cannot be made in the manner prescribed in section 506.150,
19 RSMo, then the service shall be made by mail or publication as provided in section 506.160,
20 RSMo.

21 4. Upon service, whether personal or constructive, the court may act upon the petition
22 without the consent of any party, except that of a parent whose consent is required by sections
23 453.030 to 453.050, and the judgment is binding on all parties so served. Any such party has the
24 right to appeal from the judgment in the manner and form provided by the civil code of Missouri.

25 5. In all cases where the putative father is unknown, [service shall be made by
26 publication on "John Doe" as provided in section 506.160, RSMo] **a search of the Missouri**
27 **putative father registry shall be conducted to determine if a man has filed or been**
28 **registered with the registry. If such a man is discovered, service shall be carried out**
29 **according to the provisions of this section.**

30 6. Upon request, the court may order that the writ of summons and copy of the petition
31 required by this section may be served without the names and addresses of the petitioners when
32 the court deems it to be in the best interests of the child.

453.061. Any man who has engaged in sexual intercourse with a woman is deemed
2 **to be on notice that a child may be conceived and as a result is entitled to notice of an**
3 **adoption proceeding only as provided in this chapter.**

453.110. 1. No person, agency, organization or institution shall surrender custody of a
2 minor child, or transfer the custody of such a child to another, and no person, agency,
3 organization or institution shall take possession or charge of a minor child so transferred, without
4 first having filed a petition before the circuit court sitting as a juvenile court of the county where
5 the child may be, praying that such surrender or transfer may be made, and having obtained such
6 an order from such court approving or ordering transfer of custody.

7 2. If any such surrender or transfer is made without first obtaining such an order, such
8 court shall, on petition of any public official or interested person, agency, organization or
9 institution, order an investigation and report as described in section 453.070 to be completed by
10 the division of family services and shall make such order as to the custody of such child in the
11 best interest of such child.

12 3. Any person violating the terms of this section shall be guilty of a class D felony.

13 4. The investigation required by subsection 2 of this section shall be initiated by the
14 division of family services within forty-eight hours of the filing of the court order requesting the
15 investigation and report and shall be completed within thirty days. The court shall order the
16 person having custody in violation of the provisions of this section to pay the costs of the
17 investigation and report.

18 5. This section shall not be construed to prohibit any parent, agency, organization or
19 institution from placing a child [in a family home] **with another individual** for care if the right
20 to supervise the care of the child and to resume custody thereof is retained, or from placing a

21 child with a licensed foster home within the state through a child placing agency licensed by this
22 state as part of a preadoption placement.

23 6. After the filing of a petition for the transfer of custody for the purpose of adoption,
24 the court may enter an order of transfer of custody if the court finds all of the following:

25 (1) A family assessment has been made as required in section 453.070 and has been
26 reviewed by the court;

27 (2) A recommendation has been made by the guardian ad litem;

28 (3) A petition for transfer of custody for adoption has been properly filed or an order
29 terminating parental rights has been properly filed;

30 (4) The financial affidavit has been filed as required under section 453.075;

31 (5) The written report regarding the child who is the subject of the petition containing
32 the information has been submitted as required by section 453.026;

33 (6) Compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act, if applicable; and

34 (7) Compliance with the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children pursuant to
35 section 210.620, RSMo.

36 7. A hearing on the transfer of custody for the purpose of adoption is not required if:

37 (1) The conditions set forth in subsection 6 of this section are met;

38 (2) The parties agree and the court grants leave; and

39 (3) Parental rights have been terminated pursuant to section 211.444 or 211.447, RSMo.

475.024. A parent of a minor, by a properly executed power of attorney, may delegate
2 to another individual, for a period not exceeding one year, any of his **or her** powers regarding
3 care or custody of the minor child, except his **or her** power to consent to marriage or adoption
4 of the minor child.

487.100. In any family court case the judge or commissioner may, on the judge's or
2 commissioner's own motion or, at the request of a party, order or recommend mediation,
3 counseling or a home study. The costs of such mediation, counseling or home study may be
4 assessed against any party at any time and may be taxed as court costs paid by the party against
5 whom costs are taxed or may be paid from the family services and justice fund established
6 pursuant to section 487.170. **The amount assessed for such mediation, counseling, or home**
7 **study shall be such amount as the court determines to be reasonable under the**
8 **circumstances.** The party's ability to pay shall be a consideration when such costs are assessed.

491.075. 1. A statement made by a child under the age of [twelve] **fourteen** relating to
2 an offense under chapter 565, 566 or 568, RSMo, performed with or on a child by another, not
3 otherwise admissible by statute or court rule, is admissible in evidence in criminal proceedings
4 in the courts of this state as substantive evidence to prove the truth of the matter asserted if:

5 (1) The court finds, in a hearing conducted outside the presence of the jury that the time,
6 content and circumstances of the statement provide sufficient indicia of reliability; and

7 (2) (a) The child testifies at the proceedings; or

8 (b) The child is unavailable as a witness; or

9 (c) The child is otherwise physically available as a witness but the court finds that the
10 significant emotional or psychological trauma which would result from testifying in the personal
11 presence of the defendant makes the child unavailable as a witness at the time of the criminal
12 proceeding.

13 2. Notwithstanding subsection 1 of this section or any provision of law or rule of
14 evidence requiring corroboration of statements, admissions or confessions of the defendant, and
15 notwithstanding any prohibition of hearsay evidence, a statement by a child when under the age
16 of [twelve] **fourteen** who is alleged to be victim of an offense under chapter 565, 566 or 568,
17 RSMo, is sufficient corroboration of a statement, admission or confession regardless of whether
18 or not the child is available to testify regarding the offense.

19 3. A statement may not be admitted under this section unless the prosecuting attorney
20 makes known to the accused or [his] **the accused's** counsel his **or her** intention to offer the
21 statement and the particulars of the statement sufficiently in advance of the proceedings to
22 provide the accused or [his] **the accused's** counsel with a fair opportunity to prepare to meet the
23 statement.

24 4. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the admissibility of statements,
25 admissions or confessions otherwise admissible by law.

492.304. 1. In addition to the admissibility of a statement under the provisions of section
2 492.303, the visual and aural recording of a verbal or nonverbal statement of a child when under
3 the age of [twelve] **fourteen** who is alleged to be a victim of an offense under the provisions of
4 chapter 565, 566 or 568, RSMo, is admissible into evidence if:

5 (1) No attorney for either party was present when the statement was made; **except that,**
6 **for any statement taken at a state-funded child assessment center as provided for in**
7 **subsection 2 of section 210.001, RSMo, an attorney representing the state of Missouri in**
8 **a criminal investigation may, as a member of a multidisciplinary investigation team,**
9 **observe the taking of such statement, but such attorney shall not be present in the room**
10 **where the interview is being conducted;**

11 (2) The recording is both visual and aural and is recorded on film or videotape or by
12 other electronic means;

13 (3) The recording equipment was capable of making an accurate recording, the operator
14 of the equipment was competent, and the recording is accurate and has not been altered;

15 (4) The statement was not made in response to questioning calculated to lead the child
16 to make a particular statement or to act in a particular way;

17 (5) Every voice on the recording is identified;

18 (6) The person conducting the interview of the child in the recording is present at the
19 proceeding and available to testify or be cross-examined by either party; and

20 (7) The defendant or the attorney for the defendant is afforded an opportunity to view
21 the recording before it is offered into evidence.

22 2. If the child does not testify at the proceeding, the visual and aural recording of a verbal
23 or nonverbal statement of the child shall not be admissible under this section unless the recording
24 qualifies for admission under section 491.075, RSMo.

25 3. If the visual and aural recording of a verbal or nonverbal statement of a child is
26 admissible under this section and the child testifies at the proceeding, it shall be admissible in
27 addition to the testimony of the child at the proceeding whether or not it repeats or duplicates the
28 child's testimony.

29 4. As used in this section, a nonverbal statement shall be defined as any demonstration
30 of the child by his or her actions, facial expressions, demonstrations with a doll or other visual
31 aid whether or not this demonstration is accompanied by words.

537.046. 1. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

2 (1) "Childhood sexual abuse", any act committed by the defendant against the plaintiff
3 which act occurred when the plaintiff was under the age of eighteen years and which act would
4 have been a violation of section 566.030, 566.040, 566.050, 566.060, 566.070, 566.080, 566.090,
5 566.100, 566.110, or 566.120, RSMo, or section 568.020, RSMo;

6 (2) "Injury" or "illness", either a physical injury or illness or a psychological injury or
7 illness. A psychological injury or illness need not be accompanied by physical injury or illness.

8 2. [In any civil action for recovery of damages suffered as a result of childhood sexual
9 abuse, the time for commencement of the action shall be within five years of the date the plaintiff
10 attains the age of eighteen or within three years of the date the plaintiff discovers or reasonably
11 should have discovered that the injury or illness was caused by child sexual abuse, whichever
12 later occurs.] **Any action to recover damages from injury or illness caused by childhood
13 sexual abuse in an action brought pursuant to this section, shall be commenced within ten
14 years of the plaintiff attaining the age of twenty-one or within three years of the date the
15 plaintiff discovers, or reasonably should have discovered, that the injury or illness was
16 caused by childhood sexual abuse, whichever later occurs.**

17 3. This section shall apply to any action commenced on or after [August 28, 1990] **the
18 effective date of this section**, including any action which would have been barred by the
19 application of the statute of limitation applicable prior to that date.

701.336. 1. The department of health and senior services shall cooperate with the federal government in implementing subsections (d) and (e) of 15 U.S.C. 2685 to establish public education activities and an information clearinghouse regarding childhood lead poisoning. The department may develop additional educational materials on lead hazards to children, lead poisoning prevention, lead poisoning screening, lead abatement and disposal, and on health hazards during abatement.

2. **The department of health and senior services and the department of social services, in collaboration with related not-for-profit organizations, health maintenance organizations, and the Missouri consolidated health care plan, shall devise an educational strategy to increase the number of children who are tested for lead poisoning under the Medicaid program. The goal of the educational strategy is to have seventy-five percent of the children who receive Medicaid tested for lead poisoning. The educational strategy shall be implemented over a three-year period and shall be in accordance with all federal laws and regulations.**

3. The division of family services, in collaboration with the department of health and senior services, shall regularly inform eligible clients of the availability and desirability of lead screening and treatment services, including those available through the early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment (EPSDT) component of the Medicaid program.

Section 1. 1. For purposes of proceedings and investigations conducted pursuant to chapter 211, RSMo, children shall be promptly returned to the care and custody of a nonoffending parent entitled to physical custody of the child if:

(1) **The parents have continuously maintained joint domicile for a period of at least six months prior to the alleged incident or the parents are maintaining separate households; and**

(2) **A preponderance of the evidence indicates that only one of the parents is the subject of an investigation of abuse or neglect; and**

(3) **The nonoffending parent does not have a history of criminal behavior, drug or alcohol abuse, child abuse or child neglect, domestic violence, stalking, or full orders of protection entered against them within the past five years; and**

(4) **The parents are maintaining joint domicile and the offending parent is removed from the home voluntarily or involuntarily, or the parents live separately and the child is removed from the home of the custodial parent; and**

(5) **A nonoffending parent requests custody of the child and agrees to cooperate with any orders of the court limiting contact or establishing visitation with the offending parent and the nonoffending parent complies with such orders.**

18

19 **When the parents maintain joint domicile or comply with court-ordered visitation, there**
20 **shall be a rebuttable presumption that the nonoffending parent has not committed any**
21 **violation of sections 568.030, 568.032, 568.045, 568.050, or 568.060, RSMo, or has not**
22 **engaged in any conduct that would constitute child abuse or neglect under chapter 210,**
23 **RSMo. In order to rebut the presumption there must be a finding of actual harm or**
24 **endangerment to the child if the child is placed in the custody of the nonoffending parent.**

25 **2. Nothing in this section shall prevent the division or the court from exercising its**
26 **discretion to return a child or children to the custody of any individual.**

Section 2. If any provision of this act is found by a court of competent jurisdiction
2 **to be invalid or unconstitutional it is the stated intent of the legislature that the legislature**
3 **would have approved the remaining portions of the act, and the remaining portions of the**
4 **act shall remain in full force and effect.**

[26.740. 1. There is hereby created within the office of the governor a "Child
2 Abuse, Custody and Neglect Commission" which shall evaluate the laws and rules
3 relating to child abuse, neglect, child custody and visitation and termination of
4 parental rights and shall make recommendations on further action or legislative
5 remedies, if any, to be taken as necessary. The commission shall review and
6 recommend standardized guidelines for judicial review of what constitutes the best
7 interest of the child.

8 2. The child abuse, custody and neglect commission shall be composed of
9 twelve members to be appointed by the governor, including a county prosecutor, a
10 law enforcement officer, a juvenile officer, a certified guardian ad litem, a juvenile
11 court judge, a member of the clergy, a psychologist, a pediatrician, an educator, the
12 chairman of the children's services commission, a division of family services
13 designee, and one citizen of the state of Missouri, chosen to reflect the racial
14 composition of the state, to serve four-year terms and of the members first appointed,
15 four shall serve for a term of two years, four shall serve for a term of three years, and
16 four shall serve for a term of four years.

17 3. The commission shall make its first report to the governor and the general
18 assembly by February 1, 2002, and any subsequent reports shall be made to the
19 governor, the chief justice of the supreme court and the general assembly as
20 necessary.

21 4. All members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for
22 all actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties
23 for the commission.

24 5. The office of the governor shall provide funding, administrative support,
25 and staff for the effective operation of the commission.

26 6. This section shall expire on August 28, 2004.]
27

Section B. Because immediate action is necessary to ensure the safety of children
2 receiving child protective services, the enactment of section 208.647 and the repeal and

3 reenactment of sections 135.327 and 211.032 of section A of this act is deemed necessary for the
4 immediate preservation of the public health, welfare, peace, and safety, and is hereby declared
5 to be an emergency act within the meaning of the constitution, and the enactment of section
6 208.647 and the repeal and reenactment of sections 135.327 and 211.032 of section A of this act
7 shall be in full force and effect on July 1, 2004, or upon its passage and approval, whichever later
8 occurs.