

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

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An Act to amend and reenact §§ 16.1-228, 16.1-281 through 16.1-282.2, 63.2-100, 63.2-904 through 63.2-906, and 63.2-1819 of the Code of Virginia, relating to independent living services and independent living arrangements.

[H 149]

Approved

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:
1. That §§ 16.1-228, 16.1-281 through 16.1-282.2, 63.2-100, 63.2-904 through 63.2-906, and 63.2-1819 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

- § 16.1-228. Definitions.
When used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:
"Abused or neglected child" means any child:
 1. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care creates or inflicts, threatens to create or inflict, or allows to be created or inflicted upon such child a physical or mental injury by other than accidental means, or creates a substantial risk of death, disfigurement or impairment of bodily or mental functions, including, but not limited to, a child who is with his parent or other person responsible for his care either (i) during the manufacture or attempted manufacture of a Schedule I or II controlled substance, or (ii) during the unlawful sale of such substance by that child's parents or other person responsible for his care, where such manufacture, or attempted manufacture or unlawful sale would constitute a felony violation of § 18.2-248;
 2. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care neglects or refuses to provide care necessary for his health; however, no child who in good faith is under treatment solely by spiritual means through prayer in accordance with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination shall for that reason alone be considered to be an abused or neglected child;
 3. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care abandons such child;
 4. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care commits or allows to be committed any sexual act upon a child in violation of the law;
 5. Who is without parental care or guardianship caused by the unreasonable absence or the mental or physical incapacity of the child's parent, guardian, legal custodian, or other person standing in loco parentis; or
 6. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care creates a substantial risk of physical or mental injury by knowingly leaving the child alone in the same dwelling, including an apartment as defined in § 55-79.2, with a person to whom the child is not related by blood or marriage and who the parent or other person responsible for his care knows has been convicted of an offense against a minor for which registration is required as a violent sexual offender pursuant to § 9.1-902.
- If a civil proceeding under this chapter is based solely on the parent having left the child at a hospital or rescue squad, it shall be an affirmative defense that such parent safely delivered the child to a hospital that provides 24-hour emergency services or to an attended rescue squad that employs emergency medical technicians, within 14 days of the child's birth. For purposes of terminating parental rights pursuant to § 16.1-283 and placement for adoption, the court may find such a child is a neglected child upon the ground of abandonment.
- "Adoptive home" means the place of residence of any natural person in which a child resides as a member of the household and in which he has been placed for the purposes of adoption or in which he has been legally adopted by another member of the household.
- "Adult" means a person 18 years of age or older.
- "Ancillary crime" or "ancillary charge" means any delinquent act committed by a juvenile as a part of the same act or transaction as, or which constitutes a part of a common scheme or plan with, a delinquent act which would be a felony if committed by an adult.
- "Boot camp" means a short term secure or nonsecure juvenile residential facility with highly structured components including, but not limited to, military style drill and ceremony, physical labor, education and rigid discipline, and no less than six months of intensive aftercare.
- "Child," "juvenile," or "minor" means a person less than 18 years of age.
- "Child in need of services" means (i) a child whose behavior, conduct or condition presents or results in a serious threat to the well-being and physical safety of the child or (ii) a child under the age of 14 whose behavior, conduct or condition presents or results in a serious threat to the well-being and physical safety of another person; however, no child who in good faith is under treatment solely by

57 spiritual means through prayer in accordance with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or
58 religious denomination shall for that reason alone be considered to be a child in need of services, nor
59 shall any child who habitually remains away from or habitually deserts or abandons his family as a
60 result of what the court or the local child protective services unit determines to be incidents of physical,
61 emotional or sexual abuse in the home be considered a child in need of services for that reason alone.

62 However, to find that a child falls within these provisions, (i) the conduct complained of must
63 present a clear and substantial danger to the child's life or health or to the life or health of another
64 person, (ii) the child or his family is in need of treatment, rehabilitation or services not presently being
65 received, and (iii) the intervention of the court is essential to provide the treatment, rehabilitation or
66 services needed by the child or his family.

67 "Child in need of supervision" means:

68 1. A child who, while subject to compulsory school attendance, is habitually and without justification
69 absent from school, and (i) the child has been offered an adequate opportunity to receive the benefit of
70 any and all educational services and programs that are required to be provided by law and which meet
71 the child's particular educational needs, (ii) the school system from which the child is absent or other
72 appropriate agency has made a reasonable effort to effect the child's regular attendance without success,
73 and (iii) the school system has provided documentation that it has complied with the provisions of
74 § 22.1-258; or

75 2. A child who, without reasonable cause and without the consent of his parent, lawful custodian or
76 placement authority, remains away from or deserts or abandons his family or lawful custodian on more
77 than one occasion or escapes or remains away without proper authority from a residential care facility in
78 which he has been placed by the court, and (i) such conduct presents a clear and substantial danger to
79 the child's life or health, (ii) the child or his family is in need of treatment, rehabilitation or services not
80 presently being received, and (iii) the intervention of the court is essential to provide the treatment,
81 rehabilitation or services needed by the child or his family.

82 "Child welfare agency" means a child-placing agency, child-caring institution or independent foster
83 home as defined in § 63.2-100.

84 "The court" or the "juvenile court" or the "juvenile and domestic relations court" means the juvenile
85 and domestic relations district court of each county or city.

86 "Delinquent act" means (i) an act designated a crime under the law of this Commonwealth, or an
87 ordinance of any city, county, town or service district, or under federal law, (ii) a violation of
88 § 18.2-308.7, or (iii) a violation of a court order as provided for in § 16.1-292, but shall not include an
89 act other than a violation of § 18.2-308.7, which is otherwise lawful, but is designated a crime only if
90 committed by a child. For purposes of §§ 16.1-241 and 16.1-278.9, the term shall include a refusal to
91 take a blood or breath test in violation of § 18.2-268.2 or a similar ordinance of any county, city or
92 town.

93 "Delinquent child" means a child who has committed a delinquent act or an adult who has committed
94 a delinquent act prior to his eighteenth birthday, except where the jurisdiction of the juvenile court has
95 been terminated under the provisions of § 16.1-269.6.

96 "Department" means the Department of Juvenile Justice and "Director" means the administrative head
97 in charge thereof or such of his assistants and subordinates as are designated by him to discharge the
98 duties imposed upon him under this law.

99 "Family abuse" means any act involving violence, force, or threat including, but not limited to, any
100 forceful detention, which results in bodily injury or places one in reasonable apprehension of bodily
101 injury and which is committed by a person against such person's family or household member.

102 "Family or household member" means (i) the person's spouse, whether or not he or she resides in the
103 same home with the person, (ii) the person's former spouse, whether or not he or she resides in the same
104 home with the person, (iii) the person's parents, stepparents, children, stepchildren, brothers, sisters,
105 half-brothers, half-sisters, grandparents and grandchildren, regardless of whether such persons reside in
106 the same home with the person, (iv) the person's mother-in-law, father-in-law, sons-in-law,
107 daughters-in-law, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law who reside in the same home with the person, (v)
108 any individual who has a child in common with the person, whether or not the person and that
109 individual have been married or have resided together at any time, or (vi) any individual who cohabits
110 or who, within the previous 12 months, cohabited with the person, and any children of either of them
111 then residing in the same home with the person.

112 "Foster care services" means the provision of a full range of casework, treatment and community
113 services for a planned period of time to a child who is abused or neglected as defined in § 63.2-100 or
114 in need of services as defined in this section and his family when the child (i) has been identified as
115 needing services to prevent or eliminate the need for foster care placement, (ii) has been placed through
116 an agreement between the local board of social services or a public agency designated by the
117 community policy and management team and the parents or guardians where legal custody remains with

118 the parents or guardians, (iii) has been committed or entrusted to a local board of social services or
119 child welfare agency, or (iv) has been placed under the supervisory responsibility of the local board
120 pursuant to § 16.1-293.

121 *"Independent living arrangement" means placement of a child at least 16 years of age who is in the*
122 *custody of a local board or licensed child-placing agency and has been placed by the local board or*
123 *licensed child-placing agency in a living arrangement in which he does not have daily substitute*
124 *parental supervision.*

125 *"Independent living services" means services and activities provided to a child in foster care 14*
126 *years of age or older and who has been committed or entrusted to a local board of social services,*
127 *child welfare agency, or private child-placing agency. "Independent living services" may also mean*
128 *services and activities provided to a person who was in foster care on his 18th birthday and has not yet*
129 *reached the age of 21 years. Such services shall include counseling, education, housing, employment,*
130 *and money management skills development and access to essential documents and other appropriate*
131 *services to help children or persons prepare for self-sufficiency.*

132 "Intake officer" means a juvenile probation officer appointed as such pursuant to the authority of this
133 chapter.

134 "Jail" or "other facility designed for the detention of adults" means a local or regional correctional
135 facility as defined in § 53.1-1, except those facilities utilized on a temporary basis as a court holding
136 cell for a child incident to a court hearing or as a temporary lock-up room or ward incident to the
137 transfer of a child to a juvenile facility.

138 "The judge" means the judge or the substitute judge of the juvenile and domestic relations district
139 court of each county or city.

140 "This law" or "the law" means the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Law embraced in
141 this chapter.

142 "Legal custody" means (i) a legal status created by court order which vests in a custodian the right to
143 have physical custody of the child, to determine and redetermine where and with whom he shall live,
144 the right and duty to protect, train and discipline him and to provide him with food, shelter, education
145 and ordinary medical care, all subject to any residual parental rights and responsibilities or (ii) the legal
146 status created by court order of joint custody as defined in § 20-107.2.

147 "Permanent foster care placement" means the place of residence in which a child resides and in
148 which he has been placed pursuant to the provisions of §§ 63.2-900 and 63.2-908 with the expectation
149 and agreement between the placing agency and the place of permanent foster care that the child shall
150 remain in the placement until he reaches the age of majority unless modified by court order or unless
151 removed pursuant to § 16.1-251 or § 63.2-1517. A permanent foster care placement may be a place of
152 residence of any natural person or persons deemed appropriate to meet a child's needs on a long-term
153 basis.

154 "Residual parental rights and responsibilities" means all rights and responsibilities remaining with the
155 parent after the transfer of legal custody or guardianship of the person, including but not limited to the
156 right of visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation and the responsibility
157 for support.

158 "Secure facility" or "detention home" means a local, regional or state public or private locked
159 residential facility that has construction fixtures designed to prevent escape and to restrict the movement
160 and activities of children held in lawful custody.

161 "Shelter care" means the temporary care of children in physically unrestricting facilities.

162 "State Board" means the State Board of Juvenile Justice.

163 "Status offender" means a child who commits an act prohibited by law which would not be criminal
164 if committed by an adult.

165 "Status offense" means an act prohibited by law which would not be an offense if committed by an
166 adult.

167 "Violent juvenile felony" means any of the delinquent acts enumerated in subsection B or C of
168 § 16.1-269.1 when committed by a juvenile 14 years of age or older.

169 § 16.1-281. Foster care plan.

170 A. In any case in which (i) a local board of social services or a public agency designated by the
171 community policy and management team places a child through an agreement with the parents or
172 guardians where legal custody remains with the parents or guardian, or (ii) legal custody of a child is
173 given to a local board of social services or a child welfare agency, the local department of social
174 services, the public agency designated or child welfare agency or the family assessment and planning
175 team established pursuant to § 2.2-5207 shall prepare a foster care plan for such child, as described
176 hereinafter. The individual family service plan developed by the family assessment and planning team
177 pursuant to § 2.2-5208 may be accepted by the court as the foster care plan if it meets the requirements
178 of this section.

179 The representatives of such department, agency, or team shall involve the child's parent(s) in the
 180 development of the plan, except when parental rights have been terminated or the local department of
 181 social services or other designated agency has made diligent efforts to locate the parent(s) and such
 182 parent(s) cannot be located, and any other person or persons standing in loco parentis at the time the
 183 board or child welfare agency obtained custody or the board or the public agency placed the child. The
 184 representatives of such department, agency, or team shall involve the child in the development of the
 185 plan, if such involvement is consistent with the best interests of the child. In cases where either the
 186 parent(s) or child is not involved in the development of the plan, the department, agency, or team shall
 187 include in the plan a full description of the reasons therefor.

188 The department, public agency, child welfare agency or team shall file the plan with the juvenile and
 189 domestic relations district court within 60 days following the transfer of custody or the board's or public
 190 agency's placement of the child unless the court, for good cause shown, allows an extension of time,
 191 which shall not exceed an additional 60 days. However, a foster care plan shall be filed in accordance
 192 with the provisions of § 16.1-277.01 with a petition for approval of an entrustment agreement. A foster
 193 care plan need not be prepared if the child is returned to his prior family or placed in an adoptive home
 194 within 60 days following transfer of custody to the board or agency or the board's or public agency's
 195 placement of the child.

196 B. The foster care plan shall describe *in writing* (i) the programs, care, services and other support
 197 which will be offered to the child and his parents and other prior custodians; (ii) the participation and
 198 conduct which will be sought from the child's parents and other prior custodians; (iii) the visitation and
 199 other contacts which will be permitted between the child and his parents and other prior custodians; (iv)
 200 the nature of the placement or placements which will be provided for the child; and (v) ~~in writing and~~
 201 *for children 14 years of age and older, the child's needs and goals in the areas of counseling,*
 202 *education, housing, employment, and money management skills development, along with specific*
 203 *independent living services that will be provided to the child to help him reach these goals; and (vi)*
 204 *where appropriate for children age 16 or over, the programs and services which will help the child*
 205 *prepare for the transition from foster care to independent living. If consistent with the child's health and*
 206 *safety, the plan shall be designed to support reasonable efforts which lead to the return of the child to*
 207 *his parents or other prior custodians within the shortest practicable time which shall be specified in the*
 208 *plan. The child's health and safety shall be the paramount concern of the court and the agency*
 209 *throughout the placement, case planning, service provision and review process.*

210 If the department, child welfare agency or team concludes that it is not reasonably likely that the
 211 child can be returned to his prior family within a practicable time, consistent with the best interests of
 212 the child, in a separate section of the plan the department, child welfare agency or team shall (a) include
 213 a full description of the reasons for this conclusion; (b) provide information on the opportunities for
 214 placing the child with a relative or in an adoptive home; (c) design the plan to lead to the child's
 215 successful placement with a relative if a subsequent transfer of custody to the relative is planned, or in
 216 an adoptive home within the shortest practicable time, and if neither of such placements is feasible; (d)
 217 explain why permanent foster care, independent living for a child 16 years of age or older, or continued
 218 foster care is the plan for the child. ~~"Independent living" includes the services and programs needed to~~
 219 ~~assist the child in making a transition from foster care to self-sufficiency. The department or agency~~
 220 ~~may include with such proposed plan a petition seeking the termination of residual parental rights~~
 221 ~~pursuant to § 16.1-283. "Independent living" as used in this section has the meaning set forth in~~
 222 ~~§ 63.2-100.~~

223 The local board or other child welfare agency having custody of the child shall not be required by
 224 the court to make reasonable efforts to reunite the child with a parent if the court finds that (1) the
 225 residual parental rights of the parent regarding a sibling of the child have previously been involuntarily
 226 terminated; (2) the parent has been convicted of an offense under the laws of the Commonwealth or a
 227 substantially similar law of any other state, the United States or any foreign jurisdiction that constitutes
 228 murder or voluntary manslaughter, or a felony attempt, conspiracy or solicitation to commit any such
 229 offense, if the victim of the offense was a child of the parent, a child with whom the parent resided at
 230 the time such offense occurred or the other parent of the child; (3) the parent has been convicted of an
 231 offense under the laws of the Commonwealth or a substantially similar law of any other state, the
 232 United States or any foreign jurisdiction that constitutes felony assault resulting in serious bodily injury
 233 or felony bodily wounding resulting in serious bodily injury or felony sexual assault, if the victim of the
 234 offense was a child of the parent or a child with whom the parent resided at the time of such offense; or
 235 (4) based on clear and convincing evidence, the parent has subjected any child to aggravated
 236 circumstances, or abandoned a child under circumstances which would justify the termination of residual
 237 parental rights pursuant to subsection D of § 16.1-283.

238 As used in this section:

239 "Aggravated circumstances" means torture, chronic or severe abuse, or chronic or severe sexual

240 abuse, if the victim of such conduct was a child of the parent or child with whom the parent resided at
 241 the time such conduct occurred, including the failure to protect such a child from such conduct, which
 242 conduct or failure to protect: (i) evinces a wanton or depraved indifference to human life, or (ii) has
 243 resulted in the death of such a child or in serious bodily injury to such a child.

244 "Chronic abuse" or "chronic sexual abuse" means recurring acts of physical abuse that place the
 245 child's health, safety and well-being at risk.

246 "Serious bodily injury" means bodily injury that involves substantial risk of death, extreme physical
 247 pain, protracted and obvious disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily
 248 member, organ or mental faculty.

249 "Severe abuse" or "severe sexual abuse" may include an act or omission that occurred only once, but
 250 otherwise meets the definition of "aggravated circumstances."

251 Within 30 days of making a determination that reasonable efforts to reunite the child with the parents
 252 are not required, the court shall hold a permanency planning hearing pursuant to § 16.1-282.1.

253 C. A copy of the entire foster care plan shall be sent by the court to the child, if he is 12 years of
 254 age or older; the guardian ad litem for the child, the attorney for the child's parents or for any other
 255 person standing in loco parentis at the time the board or child welfare agency obtained custody or the
 256 board or public agency placed the child, to the parents or other person standing in loco parentis, and
 257 such other persons as appear to the court to have a proper interest in the plan. However, a copy of the
 258 plan shall not be sent to a parent whose parental rights regarding the child have been terminated. A
 259 copy of the plan, excluding the section of the plan describing the reasons why the child cannot be
 260 returned home and the alternative chosen, shall be sent by the court to the foster parents. A hearing
 261 shall be held for the purpose of reviewing and approving the foster care plan. The hearing shall be held
 262 within 75 days of (i) the child's initial foster care placement, if the child was placed through an
 263 agreement between the parents or guardians and the local department of social services, other public
 264 agency or a child welfare agency; (ii) the original preliminary removal order hearing, if the child was
 265 placed in foster care pursuant to § 16.1-252; (iii) the hearing on the petition for relief of custody, if the
 266 child was placed in foster care pursuant to § 16.1-277.02; or (iv) the dispositional hearing at which the
 267 child was placed in foster care and an order was entered pursuant to § 16.1-278.2, 16.1-278.3,
 268 16.1-278.4, 16.1-278.5, 16.1-278.6, or 16.1-278.8. However, the hearing shall be held in accordance with
 269 the provisions of § 16.1-277.01 with a petition for approval of an entrustment agreement. If the judge
 270 makes any revision in any part of the foster care plan, a copy of the changes shall be sent by the court
 271 to all persons who received a copy of the original of that part of the plan.

272 C1. Any order transferring custody of the child to a relative other than the child's prior family shall
 273 be entered only upon a finding, based upon a preponderance of the evidence, that the relative is one
 274 who, after an investigation as directed by the court, (i) is found by the court to be willing and qualified
 275 to receive and care for the child; (ii) is willing to have a positive, continuous relationship with the child;
 276 (iii) is committed to providing a permanent, suitable home for the child; and (iv) is willing and has the
 277 ability to protect the child from abuse and neglect; and the order shall so state. The court's order
 278 transferring custody to a relative should further provide for, as appropriate, any terms or conditions
 279 which would promote the child's interest and welfare; ongoing provision of social services to the child
 280 and the child's custodian; and court review of the child's placement.

281 C2. Any order entered at the conclusion of the hearing that has the effect of achieving a permanent
 282 goal for the child by terminating residual parental rights pursuant to § 16.1-277.01, 16.1-277.02,
 283 16.1-278.3, or 16.1-283; by placing the child in permanent foster care pursuant to subdivision A iv of
 284 § 16.1-282.1; or by directing the board or agency to provide the child with services to achieve
 285 independent living status, if the child has attained the age of 16 years, pursuant to subdivision A v of
 286 § 16.1-282.1 shall state whether reasonable efforts have been made to place the child in a timely manner
 287 in accordance with the foster care plan and to complete the steps necessary to finalize the permanent
 288 placement of the child.

289 D. The court in which the foster care plan is filed shall be notified immediately if the child is
 290 returned to his parents or other persons standing in loco parentis at the time the board or agency
 291 obtained custody or the board or public agency placed the child.

292 E. At the conclusion of the hearing at which the initial foster care plan is reviewed, the court shall
 293 schedule a foster care review hearing to be held within six months in accordance with § 16.1-282.
 294 However, if an order is entered pursuant to subsection C2, the court shall schedule a foster care review
 295 hearing to be held within 12 months of the entry of such order in accordance with the provisions of
 296 § 16.1-282.2. Parties who are present at the hearing at which the initial foster care plan is reviewed shall
 297 be given notice of the date set for the foster care review hearing and parties who are not present shall
 298 be summoned as provided in § 16.1-263.

299 F. Nothing in this section shall limit the authority of the juvenile judge or the staff of the juvenile
 300 court, upon order of the judge, to review the status of children in the custody of local boards of social

301 services or placed by local boards of social services or the public agency designated by the community
 302 policy and management team on its own motion. The court shall appoint an attorney to act as guardian
 303 ad litem to represent the child any time a hearing is held to review the foster care plan filed for the
 304 child or to review the child's status in foster care.

305 § 16.1-282. Foster care review.

306 A. In the case of a child who was the subject of a foster care plan filed with the court pursuant to
 307 § 16.1-281, a foster care review hearing shall be held within six months of the dispositional hearing at
 308 which the foster care plan pursuant to § 16.1-281 was reviewed if the child: (a) was placed through an
 309 agreement between the parents or guardians and the local board of social services or a public agency
 310 designated by the community policy and management team where legal custody remains with the parents
 311 or guardians and such agreement has not been dissolved by court order; or (b) is under the legal custody
 312 of a local board of social services or a child welfare agency and has not had a petition to terminate
 313 parental rights granted, filed or ordered to be filed on the child's behalf; has not been placed in
 314 permanent foster care; or is ~~not receiving services to achieve independent living status is age 16 or over~~
 315 *and the plan for the child is not independent living.*

316 Any interested party, including the parent, guardian or person who stood in loco parentis prior to the
 317 board's or public agency's placement of the child or the board's or child welfare agency's assumption of
 318 legal custody, may file with the court the petition for a foster care review hearing hereinafter described
 319 at any time after the initial foster care placement of the child. However, the board, public agency or
 320 child welfare agency shall file the petition within five months of the dispositional hearing at which the
 321 foster care plan was reviewed pursuant to § 16.1-281.

322 B. The petition shall:

323 1. Be filed in the court in which the foster care plan for the child was reviewed and approved. Upon
 324 the order of such court, however, the petition may be filed in the court of the county or city in which
 325 the board or child welfare agency having legal custody or having placed the child has its principal office
 326 or where the child resides;

327 2. State, if such is reasonably obtainable, the current address of the child's parents and, if the child
 328 was in the custody of a person or persons standing in loco parentis at the time the board or child
 329 welfare agency obtained legal custody or the board or public agency placed the child, of such person or
 330 persons;

331 3. Describe the placement or placements provided for the child while in foster care and the services
 332 or programs offered to the child and his parents and, if applicable, the persons previously standing in
 333 loco parentis;

334 4. Describe the nature and frequency of the contacts between the child and his parents and, if
 335 applicable, the persons previously standing in loco parentis;

336 5. Set forth in detail the manner in which the foster care plan previously filed with the court was or
 337 was not complied with and the extent to which the goals thereof have been met; and

338 6. Set forth the disposition sought and the grounds therefor; however, if a continuation of foster care
 339 is recommended, a foster care plan for such period of continued foster care shall also be included and
 340 shall address (i) the role the current foster parents or other care providers will play in the future
 341 planning for the child and (ii) in the case of a child who has attained age sixteen *and for whom the plan*
 342 *is independent living*, the services ~~and programs~~ needed to assist the child to ~~make~~ a transition from
 343 foster care to independent living.

344 C. Upon receipt of the petition filed by the board, public agency, child welfare agency, or any
 345 interested party as provided in subsection B of this section, the court shall schedule a hearing to be held
 346 within thirty days if a hearing was not previously scheduled. The court shall provide notice of the
 347 hearing and a copy of the petition to the following, each of whom shall be a party entitled to participate
 348 in the proceeding:

349 1. The child, if he is twelve years of age or older;

350 2. The attorney-at-law representing the child as guardian ad litem;

351 3. The child's parents and, if the child was in the custody of a person standing in loco parentis at the
 352 time the department obtained custody, such person or persons. No such notification shall be required,
 353 however, if the judge certifies on the record that the identity of the parent or guardian is not reasonably
 354 ascertainable. An affidavit of the mother that the identity of the father is not reasonably ascertainable
 355 shall be sufficient evidence of this fact, provided there is no other evidence before the court which
 356 would refute such an affidavit. If the parent or guardian of the child did not appear at the dispositional
 357 hearing and was not noticed to return for the foster care review hearing in accordance with subsection E
 358 of § 16.1-281, the parent or guardian shall be summoned to appear at the foster care review hearing in
 359 accordance with § 16.1-263. The review hearing shall be held pursuant to this section although a parent
 360 or guardian fails to appear and is not represented by counsel, provided personal or substituted service
 361 was made on the parent or guardian, or the court determines that such person cannot be found, after

362 reasonable effort, or in the case of a person who is without the Commonwealth, the person cannot be
 363 found or his post office address cannot be ascertained after reasonable effort;

364 4. The foster parent or foster parents or other care providers of the child;

365 5. The petitioning board, public agency or child welfare agency; and

366 6. Such other persons as the court, in its discretion, may direct. The local board of social services or
 367 other child welfare agency shall identify for the court such other persons as have a legitimate interest in
 368 the hearing, including, but not limited to, preadoptive parents for a child in foster care.

369 D. At the conclusion of the hearing, the court shall, upon the proof adduced in accordance with the
 370 best interests of the child and subject to the provisions of subsection D1, enter any appropriate order of
 371 disposition consistent with the dispositional alternatives available to the court at the time of the original
 372 hearing. The court order shall state whether reasonable efforts, if applicable, have been made to reunite
 373 the child with his parents, guardian or other person standing in loco parentis to the child. Any order
 374 entered at the conclusion of this hearing that has the effect of achieving a permanent goal for the child
 375 by terminating residual parental rights pursuant to §§ 16.1-277.01, 16.1-277.02, 16.1-278.3, or §
 376 16.1-283; by placing the child in permanent foster care pursuant to subdivision A iv of § 16.1-282.1; or
 377 by directing the board or agency to provide the child with services to achieve independent living status,
 378 if the child has attained the age of sixteen years *and the plan for the child is independent living,*
 379 *directing the board or agency to provide the necessary services to transition from foster care,* pursuant
 380 to subdivision A v of § 16.1-282.1 shall state whether reasonable efforts have been made to place the
 381 child in a timely manner in accordance with the foster care plan and to complete the steps necessary to
 382 finalize the permanent placement of the child.

383 D1. Any order transferring custody of the child to a relative other than the child's prior family shall
 384 be entered only upon a finding, based upon a preponderance of the evidence, that the relative is one
 385 who, after an investigation as directed by the court, (i) is found by the court to be willing and qualified
 386 to receive and care for the child; (ii) is willing to have a positive, continuous relationship with the child;
 387 (iii) is committed to providing a permanent, suitable home for the child; and (iv) is willing and has the
 388 ability to protect the child from abuse and neglect; and the order shall so state. The court's order
 389 transferring custody to a relative should further provide for, as appropriate, any terms and conditions
 390 which would promote the child's interest and welfare; ongoing provision of social services to the child
 391 and the child's custodian; and court review of the child's placement.

392 E. The court shall possess continuing jurisdiction over cases reviewed under this section for so long
 393 as a child remains in a foster care placement or, when a child is returned to his prior family subject to
 394 conditions imposed by the court, for so long as such conditions are effective. After the hearing required
 395 pursuant to subsection C, the court shall schedule a permanency planning hearing on the case to be held
 396 five months thereafter in accordance with § 16.1-282.1 or within thirty days upon the petition of any
 397 party entitled to notice in proceedings under this section when the judge determines there is good cause
 398 shown for such a hearing. However, in the case of a child who is the subject of an order that has the
 399 effect of achieving a permanent goal for the child by terminating residual parental rights pursuant to
 400 §§ 16.1-277.01, 16.1-277.02, 16.1-278.3, or § 16.1-283; by placing the child in permanent foster care
 401 pursuant to subdivision A iv of § 16.1-282.1; or by directing the board or agency to provide the child
 402 with services to achieve independent living status, if the child has attained the age of sixteen years,
 403 pursuant to subdivision A v of § 16.1-282.1, a permanency planning hearing within five months shall
 404 not be required and the court shall schedule a foster care review hearing to be held within twelve
 405 months of the entry of such order in accordance with the provisions of § 16.1-282.2.

406 § 16.1-282.1. Permanency planning hearing for children in foster care.

407 A. In the case of a child who was the subject of a foster care plan filed with the court pursuant to
 408 § 16.1-281, a permanency planning hearing shall be held within eleven months of the dispositional
 409 hearing at which the foster care plan pursuant to § 16.1-281 was reviewed if the child (a) was placed
 410 through an agreement between the parents or guardians and the local board of social services or a public
 411 agency designated by the community policy and management team where legal custody remains with the
 412 parents or guardians and such agreement has not been dissolved by court order; or (b) is under the legal
 413 custody of a local board of social services or a child welfare agency and has not had a petition to
 414 terminate parental rights filed on the child's behalf, has not been placed in permanent foster care, or is
 415 ~~not receiving services to achieve independent living status age 16 or over and the plan for the child is~~
 416 *not independent living.* The board, public agency or child welfare agency shall file a petition for a
 417 permanency planning hearing within ten months of the dispositional hearing at which the foster care
 418 plan was reviewed pursuant to § 16.1-281. The purpose of this hearing is to establish a permanent goal
 419 for the child and either to achieve the permanent goal or to defer such action through the approval of an
 420 interim plan for the child.

421 To achieve the permanent goal, the petition for a permanency planning hearing shall seek to (i)
 422 transfer the custody of the child to his prior family, or dissolve the board's or public agency's placement

423 agreement and return the child to his prior family; (ii) transfer custody of the child to a relative other
424 than the child's prior family, subject to the provisions of subsection A1; (iii) terminate residual parental
425 rights pursuant to § 16.1-277.01 or § 16.1-283; (iv) place the child in permanent foster care pursuant to
426 § 63.2-908; (v) ~~direct the board or agency to provide the child with services to achieve independent~~
427 ~~living status~~, if the child has attained the age of sixteen years *or over and the plan is independent living*,
428 *direct the board or agency to provide the child with services to transition from foster care*; or (vi) place
429 the child in another planned permanent living arrangement in accordance with the provisions of
430 subsection A2.

431 For approval of an interim plan, the petition for a permanency planning hearing shall seek to
432 continue custody with the board or agency, or continue placement with the board or public agency
433 through a parental agreement; or transfer custody to the board or child welfare agency from the parents
434 or guardian of a child who has been in foster care through an agreement where the parents or guardian
435 retains custody.

436 Upon receipt of the petition, if a permanency planning hearing has not already been scheduled, the
437 court shall schedule such a hearing to be held within thirty days. The permanency planning hearing shall
438 be held within eleven months of the dispositional hearing at which the foster care plan was reviewed
439 pursuant to § 16.1-281. The provisions of subsection B of § 16.1-282 shall apply to this petition. The
440 procedures of subsection C of § 16.1-282 and the provisions of subsection E of § 16.1-282 shall apply to
441 the scheduling and notice of proceedings under this section.

442 A1. The following requirements shall apply to the transfer of custody of the child to a relative other
443 than the child's prior family in accordance with the provisions of (ii) of subsection A of this section.
444 Any order transferring custody of the child to a relative other than the child's prior family shall be
445 entered only upon a finding, based upon a preponderance of the evidence, that the relative is one who,
446 after an investigation as directed by the court, (i) is found by the court to be willing and qualified to
447 receive and care for the child; (ii) is willing to have a positive, continuous relationship with the child;
448 (iii) is committed to providing a permanent, suitable home for the child; and (iv) is willing and has the
449 ability to protect the child from abuse and neglect; and the order shall so state. The court's order
450 transferring custody to a relative should further provide, as appropriate, for any terms or conditions
451 which would promote the child's interest and welfare.

452 A2. The following requirements shall apply to the selection and approval of placement in another
453 planned permanent living arrangement as the permanent goal for the child in accordance with clause (vi)
454 of subsection A of this section.

455 1. The board, public agency or child welfare agency shall petition for alternative (vi) of subsection A
456 only if the child has a severe and chronic emotional, physical or neurological disabling condition for
457 which the child requires long-term residential treatment; and the board, public agency or child welfare
458 agency has thoroughly investigated the feasibility of the alternatives listed in clauses (i) through (v) of
459 subsection A and determined that none of those alternatives is in the best interests of the child. In a
460 foster care plan filed with the petition pursuant to this section, the board or agency shall document the
461 following: (i) the investigation conducted of the placement alternatives listed in clauses (i) through (v)
462 of subsection A and why each of these is not currently in the best interest of the child; (ii) at least one
463 compelling reason why none of the alternatives listed in clauses (i) through (v) is achievable for the
464 child at the time placement in another planned permanent living arrangement is selected as the
465 permanent goal for the child; (iii) the identity of the long-term residential treatment service provider;
466 (iv) the nature of the child's disability; (v) the anticipated length of time required for the child's
467 treatment; and (vi) the status of the child's eligibility for admission and long-term treatment.

468 2. Before approving alternative (vi) of subsection A of this section as the plan for the child, the court
469 shall find (i) that the child has a severe and chronic emotional, physical or neurological disabling
470 condition; (ii) that the child requires long-term residential treatment for the disabling condition; and (iii)
471 that none of the alternatives listed in clauses (i) through (v) of subsection A is achievable for the child
472 at the time placement in another planned permanent living arrangement is approved as the permanent
473 goal for the child. If the board or agency petitions for alternative (vi), alternative (vi) may be approved
474 by the court for a period of six months at a time.

475 3. At the conclusion of the permanency planning hearing, if alternative (vi) of subsection A of this
476 section is the permanent plan, the court shall schedule a hearing to be held within six months to review
477 the child's placement in another planned permanent living arrangement in accordance with subdivision 4
478 of subsection A2. All parties present at the hearing at which clause (vi) of subsection A is approved as
479 the permanent plan for the child shall be given notice of the date scheduled for the foster care review
480 hearing. Parties not present shall be summoned to appear as provided in § 16.1-263. Otherwise, this
481 subsection A2 shall govern the scheduling and notice for such hearings.

482 4. The court shall review a foster care plan for any child who is placed in another planned
483 permanent living arrangement every six months from the date of the permanency planning hearing held

484 pursuant to this subsection, so long as the child remains in the legal custody of the board, public agency
 485 or child welfare agency. The board, public agency or child welfare agency shall file such petitions for
 486 review pursuant to the provisions of § 16.1-282 and shall, in addition, include in the petition the
 487 information required by subdivision 1 of subsection A2 of this section. The petition for foster care
 488 review shall be filed no later than thirty days prior to the hearing scheduled in accordance with
 489 subdivision 3 of subsection A2. At the conclusion of the foster care review hearing, if alternative (vi) of
 490 subsection A of this section remains the permanent plan, the court shall enter an order that states
 491 whether reasonable efforts have been made to place the child in a timely manner in accordance with the
 492 permanency plan and to monitor the child's status in another planned permanent living arrangement.

493 However, if at any time during the six-month approval periods permitted by this subsection, a
 494 determination is made by treatment providers that the child's need for long-term residential treatment for
 495 the child's disabling condition is eliminated, the board or agency shall immediately begin to plan for
 496 post-discharge services and shall, within thirty days of making such a determination, file a petition for a
 497 permanency planning hearing pursuant to subsection A of this section. Upon receipt of the petition, the
 498 court shall schedule a permanency planning hearing to be held within thirty days. The provisions of
 499 subsection B of § 16.1-282 shall apply to this petition. The procedures of subsection C of § 16.1-282
 500 and the provisions of subsection E of § 16.1-282 shall apply to proceedings under this section.

501 B. The following requirements shall apply to the selection and approval of an interim plan for the
 502 child in accordance with subsection A.

503 1. The board, public agency or child welfare agency shall petition for approval of an interim plan
 504 only if the board, public agency or child welfare agency has thoroughly investigated the feasibility of
 505 the alternatives listed in clauses (i) through (v) of subsection A and determined that none of those
 506 alternatives is in the best interest of the child. If the board or agency petitions for approval of an interim
 507 plan, such plan may be approved by the court for a maximum period of six months. The board or
 508 agency shall also file a foster care plan that (i) identifies a permanent goal for the child that corresponds
 509 with one of the alternatives specified in clauses (i) through (v) of subsection A; (ii) includes provisions
 510 for accomplishing the permanent goal within six months; and (iii) summarizes the investigation
 511 conducted of the alternatives listed in clauses (i) through (v) of subsection A and why achieving each of
 512 these is not in the best interest of the child at this time.

513 2. Before approving an interim plan for the child, the court shall find:

514 a. When returning home remains the plan for the child, that the parent has made marked progress
 515 toward reunification with the child, the parent has maintained a close and positive relationship with the
 516 child, and the child is likely to return home within the near future, although it is premature to set an
 517 exact date for return at the time of this hearing; or

518 b. When returning home is not the plan for the child, that marked progress is being made to achieve
 519 the permanent goal identified by the board, public agency or child welfare agency and that it is
 520 premature to set an exact date for accomplishing the goal at the time of this hearing.

521 3. Upon approval of an interim plan, the court shall schedule a hearing to be held within six months
 522 to determine that the permanent goal is accomplished and to enter an order consistent with alternative
 523 (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), or (v) of subsection A. All parties present at the initial permanency planning hearing
 524 shall be given notice of the date scheduled for the second permanency planning hearing. Parties not
 525 present shall be summoned to appear as provided in § 16.1-263. Otherwise, subsection A shall govern
 526 the scheduling and notice for such hearings.

527 C. At the conclusion of the permanency planning hearing held pursuant to this section, whether
 528 action is taken or deferred to achieve the permanent goal for the child, the court shall enter an order that
 529 states whether reasonable efforts have been made to reunite the child with the child's prior family, if
 530 returning home is the permanent goal for the child; or whether reasonable efforts have been made to
 531 achieve the permanent goal identified by the board or agency, if the goal is other than returning the
 532 child home.

533 In making this determination, the court shall give consideration to whether the board or agency has
 534 placed the child in a timely manner in accordance with the foster care plan and completed the steps
 535 necessary to finalize the permanent placement of the child.

536 § 16.1-282.2. Annual foster care review.

537 A. The court shall review a foster care plan annually for any child who remains in the legal custody
 538 of a local board of social services or a child welfare agency and (i) on whose behalf a petition to
 539 terminate parental rights has been granted, filed or ordered to be filed, (ii) who is placed in permanent
 540 foster care, or (iii) ~~who is receiving services to achieve independent living status who is age 16 or over~~
 541 ~~and for whom the plan is independent living~~. The foster care review hearing shall be scheduled at the
 542 conclusion of a hearing held pursuant to §§ 16.1-281, 16.1-282, or § 16.1-282.1 at which the order is
 543 entered: terminating parental rights, directing the filing of a petition for termination of parental rights by
 544 the board or agency, placing the child in permanent foster care, or directing the board or agency to

545 provide the child with services to achieve independent living status who is age 16 or over and for whom
 546 the plan is independent living with services to transition from foster care. The foster care review hearing
 547 shall be held within twelve months of the date of such order, so long as the child remains in the
 548 custody of the board or agency.

549 The board or agency shall file the petition for a foster care review hearing, and the court shall
 550 provide notice of the foster care review hearing in accordance with the provisions of § 16.1-282. The
 551 board or agency shall file a written Adoption Progress Report with the juvenile court pursuant to
 552 §§ 16.1-277.01, 16.1-277.02, 16.1-278.3, or § 16.1-283, if applicable, with the petition required by this
 553 section. The court order entered at the conclusion of the hearing held on the petition shall state whether
 554 reasonable efforts have been made to place the child in a timely manner in accordance with the
 555 approved foster care plan that established a permanent goal for the child and to complete the steps
 556 necessary to finalize the permanent placement of the child.

557 B. At the foster care review hearing in the case of a child who is placed in permanent foster care,
 558 the court shall give consideration to the appropriateness of the services being provided to the child and
 559 permanent foster parents, to any change in circumstances since the entry of the order placing the child
 560 in permanent foster care, and to such other factors as the court deems proper.

561 § 63.2-100. Definitions.

562 As used in this title, unless the context requires a different meaning:

563 "Abused or neglected child" means any child less than 18 years of age:

564 1. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care creates or inflicts, threatens to create or
 565 inflict, or allows to be created or inflicted upon such child a physical or mental injury by other than
 566 accidental means, or creates a substantial risk of death, disfigurement, or impairment of bodily or mental
 567 functions, including but not limited to, a child who is with his parent or other person responsible for his
 568 care either (i) during the manufacture or attempted manufacture of a Schedule I or II controlled
 569 substance, or (ii) during the unlawful sale of such substance by that child's parents or other person
 570 responsible for his care, where such manufacture, or attempted manufacture or unlawful sale would
 571 constitute a felony violation of § 18.2-248;

572 2. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care neglects or refuses to provide care
 573 necessary for his health. However, no child who in good faith is under treatment solely by spiritual
 574 means through prayer in accordance with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious
 575 denomination shall for that reason alone be considered to be an abused or neglected child. Further, a
 576 decision by parents who have legal authority for the child or, in the absence of parents with legal
 577 authority for the child, any person with legal authority for the child, who refuses a particular medical
 578 treatment for a child with a life-threatening condition shall not be deemed a refusal to provide necessary
 579 care if (i) such decision is made jointly by the parents or other person with legal authority and the child;
 580 (ii) the child has reached 14 years of age and is sufficiently mature to have an informed opinion on the
 581 subject of his medical treatment; (iii) the parents or other person with legal authority and the child have
 582 considered alternative treatment options; and (iv) the parents or other person with legal authority and the
 583 child believe in good faith that such decision is in the child's best interest. Nothing in this subdivision
 584 shall be construed to limit the provisions of § 16.1-278.4;

585 3. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care abandons such child;

586 4. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care commits or allows to be committed any act
 587 of sexual exploitation or any sexual act upon a child in violation of the law;

588 5. Who is without parental care or guardianship caused by the unreasonable absence or the mental or
 589 physical incapacity of the child's parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person standing in loco
 590 parentis; or

591 6. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care creates a substantial risk of physical or
 592 mental injury by knowingly leaving the child alone in the same dwelling, including an apartment as
 593 defined in § 55-79.2, with a person to whom the child is not related by blood or marriage and who the
 594 parent or other person responsible for his care knows has been convicted of an offense against a minor
 595 for which registration is required as a violent sexual offender pursuant to § 9.1-902.

596 If a civil proceeding under this title is based solely on the parent having left the child at a hospital
 597 or rescue squad, it shall be an affirmative defense that such parent safely delivered the child to a
 598 hospital that provides 24-hour emergency services or to an attended rescue squad that employs
 599 emergency medical technicians, within 14 days of the child's birth. For purposes of terminating parental
 600 rights pursuant to § 16.1-283 and placement for adoption, the court may find such a child is a neglected
 601 child upon the ground of abandonment.

602 "Adoptive home" means any family home selected and approved by a parent, local board or a
 603 licensed child-placing agency for the placement of a child with the intent of adoption.

604 "Adoptive placement" means arranging for the care of a child who is in the custody of a
 605 child-placing agency in an approved home for the purpose of adoption.

606 "Adult abuse" means the willful infliction of physical pain, injury or mental anguish or unreasonable
607 confinement of an adult.

608 "Adult day care center" means any facility that is either operated for profit or that desires licensure
609 and that provides supplementary care and protection during only a part of the day to four or more aged,
610 infirm or disabled adults who reside elsewhere, except (i) a facility or portion of a facility licensed by
611 the State Board of Health or the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse
612 Services, and (ii) the home or residence of an individual who cares for only persons related to him by
613 blood or marriage. Included in this definition are any two or more places, establishments or institutions
614 owned, operated or controlled by a single entity and providing such supplementary care and protection
615 to a combined total of four or more aged, infirm or disabled adults.

616 "Adult exploitation" means the illegal use of an incapacitated adult or his resources for another's
617 profit or advantage.

618 "Adult foster care" means room and board, supervision, and special services to an adult who has a
619 physical or mental condition. Adult foster care may be provided by a single provider for up to three
620 adults.

621 "Adult neglect" means that an adult is living under such circumstances that he is not able to provide
622 for himself or is not being provided services necessary to maintain his physical and mental health and
623 that the failure to receive such necessary services impairs or threatens to impair his well-being.

624 "Adult protective services" means services provided by the local department that are necessary to
625 protect an adult from abuse, neglect or exploitation.

626 "Assisted living care" means a level of service provided by an assisted living facility for adults who
627 may have physical or mental impairments and require at least a moderate level of assistance with
628 activities of daily living.

629 "Assisted living facility" means any congregate residential setting that provides or coordinates
630 personal and health care services, 24-hour supervision, and assistance (scheduled and unscheduled) for
631 the maintenance or care of four or more adults who are aged, infirm or disabled and who are cared for
632 in a primarily residential setting, except (i) a facility or portion of a facility licensed by the State Board
633 of Health or the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, but
634 including any portion of such facility not so licensed; (ii) the home or residence of an individual who
635 cares for or maintains only persons related to him by blood or marriage; (iii) a facility or portion of a
636 facility serving infirm or disabled persons between the ages of 18 and 21, or 22 if enrolled in an
637 educational program for the handicapped pursuant to § 22.1-214, when such facility is licensed by the
638 Department as a children's residential facility under Chapter 17 (§ 63.2-1700 et seq.) of this title, but
639 including any portion of the facility not so licensed; and (iv) any housing project for persons 62 years of
640 age or older or the disabled that provides no more than basic coordination of care services and is funded
641 by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, or
642 by the Virginia Housing Development Authority. Included in this definition are any two or more places,
643 establishments or institutions owned or operated by a single entity and providing maintenance or care to
644 a combined total of four or more aged, infirm or disabled adults. Maintenance or care means the
645 protection, general supervision and oversight of the physical and mental well-being of an aged, infirm or
646 disabled individual.

647 "Auxiliary grants" means cash payments made to certain aged, blind or disabled individuals who
648 receive benefits under Title XVI of the Social Security Act, as amended, or would be eligible to receive
649 these benefits except for excess income.

650 "Birth family" or "birth sibling" means the child's biological family or biological sibling.

651 "Birth parent" means the child's biological parent and, for purposes of adoptive placement, means
652 parent(s) by previous adoption.

653 "Board" means the State Board of Social Services.

654 "Child" means any natural person under 18 years of age.

655 "Child day center" means a child day program offered to (i) two or more children under the age of
656 13 in a facility that is not the residence of the provider or of any of the children in care or (ii) 13 or
657 more children at any location.

658 "Child day program" means a regularly operating service arrangement for children where, during the
659 absence of a parent or guardian, a person or organization has agreed to assume responsibility for the
660 supervision, protection, and well-being of a child under the age of 13 for less than a 24-hour period.

661 "Child-placing agency" means any person who places children in foster homes, adoptive homes or
662 independent living arrangements pursuant to § 63.2-1819 or a local board that places children in foster
663 homes or adoptive homes pursuant to §§ 63.2-900, 63.2-903, and 63.2-1221. Officers, employees, or
664 agents of the Commonwealth, or any locality acting within the scope of their authority as such, who
665 serve as or maintain a child-placing agency, shall not be required to be licensed.

666 "Child-protective services" means the identification, receipt and immediate response to complaints

667 and reports of alleged child abuse or neglect for children under 18 years of age. It also includes
668 assessment, and arranging for and providing necessary protective and rehabilitative services for a child
669 and his family when the child has been found to have been abused or neglected or is at risk of being
670 abused or neglected.

671 "Child support services" means any civil, criminal or administrative action taken by the Division of
672 Child Support Enforcement to locate parents; establish paternity; and establish, modify, enforce, or
673 collect child support, or child and spousal support.

674 "Child-welfare agency" means a child day center, child-placing agency, children's residential facility,
675 family day home, family day system, or independent foster home.

676 "Children's residential facility" means any facility, child-caring institution, or group home that is
677 maintained for the purpose of receiving children separated from their parents or guardians for full-time
678 care, maintenance, protection and guidance, or for the purpose of providing independent living services
679 to persons between 18 and 21 years of age who are in the process of transitioning out of foster care.
680 Children's residential facility shall not include:

681 1. A licensed or accredited educational institution whose pupils, in the ordinary course of events,
682 return annually to the homes of their parents or guardians for not less than two months of summer
683 vacation;

684 2. An establishment required to be licensed as a summer camp by § 35.1-18; and

685 3. A licensed or accredited hospital legally maintained as such.

686 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Department, his designee or authorized
687 representative.

688 "Department" means the State Department of Social Services.

689 "Department of Health and Human Services" means the Department of Health and Human Services
690 of the United States government or any department or agency thereof that may hereafter be designated
691 as the agency to administer the Social Security Act, as amended.

692 "Disposable income" means that part of the income due and payable of any individual remaining
693 after the deduction of any amount required by law to be withheld.

694 "Energy assistance" means benefits to assist low-income households with their home heating and
695 cooling needs, including, but not limited to, purchase of materials or substances used for home heating,
696 repair or replacement of heating equipment, emergency intervention in no-heat situations, purchase or
697 repair of cooling equipment, and payment of electric bills to operate cooling equipment, in accordance
698 with § 63.2-805, or provided under the Virginia Energy Assistance Program established pursuant to the
699 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (Title XXVI of Public Law 97-35), as amended.

700 "Family day home" means a child day program offered in the residence of the provider or the home
701 of any of the children in care for one through 12 children under the age of 13, exclusive of the
702 provider's own children and any children who reside in the home, when at least one child receives care
703 for compensation. The provider of a licensed or registered family day home shall disclose to the parents
704 or guardians of children in their care the percentage of time per week that persons other than the
705 provider will care for the children. Family day homes serving six through 12 children, exclusive of the
706 provider's own children and any children who reside in the home, shall be licensed. However, no family
707 day home shall care for more than four children under the age of two, including the provider's own
708 children and any children who reside in the home, unless the family day home is licensed or voluntarily
709 registered. However, a family day home where the children in care are all grandchildren of the provider
710 shall not be required to be licensed.

711 "Family day system" means any person who approves family day homes as members of its system;
712 who refers children to available family day homes in that system; and who, through contractual
713 arrangement, may provide central administrative functions including, but not limited to, training of
714 operators of member homes; technical assistance and consultation to operators of member homes;
715 inspection, supervision, monitoring, and evaluation of member homes; and referral of children to
716 available health and social services.

717 "Foster care placement" means placement of a child through (i) an agreement between the parents or
718 guardians and the local board or the public agency designated by the community policy and
719 management team where legal custody remains with the parents or guardians or (ii) an entrustment or
720 commitment of the child to the local board or licensed child-placing agency.

721 "Foster home" means the place of residence of any natural person in which any child, other than a
722 child by birth or adoption of such person, resides as a member of the household.

723 "General relief" means money payments and other forms of relief made to those persons mentioned
724 in § 63.2-802 in accordance with the regulations of the Board and reimbursable in accordance with
725 § 63.2-401.

726 "Independent foster home" means a private family home in which any child, other than a child by
727 birth or adoption of such person, resides as a member of the household and has been placed therein

728 independently of a child-placing agency except (i) a home in which are received only children related by
 729 birth or adoption of the person who maintains such home and children of personal friends of such
 730 person and (ii) a home in which is received a child or children committed under the provisions of
 731 subdivision A 4 of § 16.1-278.2, subdivision 6 of § 16.1-278.4, or subdivision A 13 of § 16.1-278.8.

732 "Independent living" means a ~~program of services and activities for children in foster care who are~~
 733 ~~16 years of age or older, and persons planned program of services designed to assist a child aged 16~~
 734 ~~and over and persons who are former foster care children between the ages of 18 and 21, that prepares~~
 735 ~~them for the successful transition in transitioning from foster care to self sufficiency.~~

736 "*Independent living arrangement*" means placement of a child at least 16 years of age who is in the
 737 custody of a local board or licensed child-placing agency and has been placed by the local board or
 738 licensed child-placing agency in a living arrangement in which he does not have daily substitute
 739 parental supervision.

740 "~~Independent living placement~~" means placement of a child at least 16 years of age who is in the
 741 custody of a local board or licensed child-placing agency and has been placed by the local board or
 742 licensed child-placing agency in a living arrangement in which he does not have daily substitute parental
 743 supervision.

744 "*Independent living services*" means services and activities provided to a child in foster care 16
 745 years of age or older who was committed or entrusted to a local board of social services, child welfare
 746 agency, or private child-placing agency. "*Independent living services*" may also mean services and
 747 activities provided to a person who was in foster care on his 18th birthday and has not yet reached the
 748 age of 21 years. Such services shall include counseling, education, housing, employment, and money
 749 management skills development, access to essential documents, and other appropriate services to help
 750 children or persons prepare for self-sufficiency.

751 "Independent physician" means a physician who is chosen by the resident of the assisted living
 752 facility and who has no financial interest in the assisted living facility, directly or indirectly, as an
 753 owner, officer, or employee or as an independent contractor with the residence.

754 "Intercountry placement" means the arrangement for the care of a child in an adoptive home or foster
 755 care placement into or out of the Commonwealth by a licensed child-placing agency, court, or other
 756 entity authorized to make such placements in accordance with the laws of the foreign country under
 757 which it operates.

758 "Interstate placement" means the arrangement for the care of a child in an adoptive home, foster care
 759 placement or in the home of the child's parent or with a relative or nonagency guardian, into or out of
 760 the Commonwealth, by a child-placing agency or court when the full legal right of the child's parent or
 761 nonagency guardian to plan for the child has been voluntarily terminated or limited or severed by the
 762 action of any court.

763 "Kinship care" means the full-time care, nurturing, and protection of children by relatives.

764 "Local board" means the local board of social services representing one or more counties or cities.

765 "Local department" means the local department of social services of any county or city in this
 766 Commonwealth.

767 "Local director" means the director or his designated representative of the local department of the
 768 city or county.

769 "Merit system plan" means those regulations adopted by the Board in the development and operation
 770 of a system of personnel administration meeting requirements of the federal Office of Personnel
 771 Management.

772 "Parental placement" means locating or effecting the placement of a child or the placing of a child in
 773 a family home by the child's parent or legal guardian for the purpose of foster care or adoption.

774 "Public assistance" means Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); auxiliary grants to the
 775 aged, blind and disabled; medical assistance; energy assistance; food stamps; employment services; child
 776 care; and general relief.

777 "Qualified assessor" means an entity contracting with the Department of Medical Assistance Services
 778 to perform nursing facility pre-admission screening or to complete the uniform assessment instrument for
 779 a home and community-based waiver program, including an independent physician contracting with the
 780 Department of Medical Assistance Services to complete the uniform assessment instrument for residents
 781 of assisted living facilities, or any hospital that has contracted with the Department of Medical
 782 Assistance Services to perform nursing facility pre-admission screenings.

783 "Registered family day home" means any family day home that has met the standards for voluntary
 784 registration for such homes pursuant to regulations adopted by the Board and that has obtained a
 785 certificate of registration from the Commissioner.

786 "Residential living care" means a level of service provided by an assisted living facility for adults
 787 who may have physical or mental impairments and require only minimal assistance with the activities of
 788 daily living. The definition of "residential living care" includes the services provided by independent

789 living facilities that voluntarily become licensed.

790 "Social services" means foster care, adoption, adoption assistance, adult services, adult protective
791 services, child-protective services, domestic violence services, or any other services program
792 implemented in accordance with regulations adopted by the Board.

793 "Special order" means an order imposing an administrative sanction issued to any party licensed
794 pursuant to this title by the Commissioner that has a stated duration of not more than 12 months. A
795 special order shall be considered a case decision as defined in § 2.2-4001.

796 "Temporary Assistance for Needy Families" or "TANF" means the program administered by the
797 Department through which a relative can receive monthly cash assistance for the support of his eligible
798 children.

799 "Temporary Assistance for Needy Families-Unemployed Parent" or "TANF-UP" means the
800 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program for families in which both natural or adoptive
801 parents of a child reside in the home and neither parent is exempt from the Virginia Initiative for
802 Employment Not Welfare (VIEW) participation under § 63.2-609.

803 "Title IV-E Foster Care" means a federal program authorized under §§ 472 and 473 of the Social
804 Security Act, as amended, and administered by the Department through which foster care is provided on
805 behalf of qualifying children.

806 § 63.2-904. Investigation, visitation and supervision of foster homes or independent living
807 arrangement; removal of child.

808 A. Before placing or arranging for the placement of any such child in a foster home or independent
809 living ~~placement~~ *arrangement*, a local board or licensed child-placing agency shall cause a careful study
810 to be made to determine the suitability of such home or independent ~~placement~~ *living arrangement*, and
811 after placement shall cause such home or independent ~~placement~~ *living arrangement* and child to be
812 visited as often as necessary to protect the interests of such child.

813 B. Every local board or licensed child-placing agency that places a child in a foster home or
814 independent living ~~placement~~ *arrangement* shall maintain such supervision over such home or
815 independent living ~~placement~~ *arrangement* as shall be required by the standards and policies established
816 by the Board.

817 C. Whenever any child placed by a local board or licensed child-placing agency and still under its
818 control or supervision is subject, in the home in which he is placed, to unwholesome influences or to
819 neglect or mistreatment, or whenever the Commissioner shall so order, such local board or agency shall
820 cause the child to be removed from such home and shall make for him such arrangements as may be
821 approved by the Commissioner.

822 § 63.2-905. Foster care services.

823 Foster care services are the provision of a full range of casework, treatment and community services,
824 *including but not limited to independent living services*, for a planned period of time to a child who is
825 abused or neglected as defined in § 63.2-100 or in need of services as defined in § 16.1-228 and his
826 family when the child (i) has been identified as needing services to prevent or eliminate the need for
827 foster care placement, (ii) has been placed through an agreement between the local board or the public
828 agency designated by the community policy and management team and the parents or guardians where
829 legal custody remains with the parents or guardians, or (iii) has been committed or entrusted to a local
830 board or licensed child placing agency.

831 § 63.2-905.1. Independent living services.

832 Local departments ~~may~~ *and licensed child-placing agencies may* provide independent living services
833 to persons between 18 and 21 years of age who are in the process of transitioning from foster care to
834 self-sufficiency. *Local departments and licensed child-placing agencies may provide independent living*
835 *services as part of the foster care services provided to any child 14 years of age or older. All*
836 *independent living services shall be provided in accordance with regulations adopted by the board.*

837 § 63.2-906. Foster care plans; permissible plan goals; court review of foster children.

838 A. Each child, who is committed or entrusted to the care of a local board or to a licensed
839 child-placing agency, or who is placed through an agreement between a local board or a public agency
840 designated by the community policy and management team and the parent, parents or guardians where
841 legal custody remains with the parent, parents or guardians, shall have a foster care plan prepared by the
842 local department, the designated public or child welfare agency, or the family assessment and planning
843 team established pursuant to § 2.2-5207, as specified in § 16.1-281. The representatives of such
844 department, agency, or team shall involve the child's parent(s) in the development of the plan, except
845 when parental rights have been terminated or the local department of social services or other designated
846 agency has made diligent efforts to locate the parent(s) and such parent(s) cannot be located, and any
847 other person or persons standing in loco parentis at the time the board or child welfare agency obtained
848 custody or the board or the public agency placed the child. The representatives of such department,
849 agency, or team shall involve the child in the development of the plan, if such involvement is consistent

850 with the best interests of the child. In cases where either the parent(s) or child is not involved in the
851 development of the plan, the department, agency, or team shall include in the plan a full description of
852 the reasons therefor.

853 A court may place a child in the care and custody of (i) a public agency in accordance with
854 § 16.1-251 or 16.1-252, and (ii) a public or licensed private child-placing agency in accordance with
855 § 16.1-278.2, 16.1-278.4, 16.1-278.5, 16.1-278.6, or 16.1-278.8. Children may be placed by voluntary
856 relinquishment in the care and custody of a public or private agency in accordance with § 16.1-277.01
857 or §§ 16.1-277.02 and 16.1-278.3. Children may be placed through an agreement where legal custody
858 remains with the parent, parents or guardians in accordance with §§ 63.2-900 and 63.2-903 or
859 § 2.2-5208.

860 B. Each child in foster care shall be assigned a permanent plan goal to be reviewed and approved by
861 the juvenile and domestic relations district court having jurisdiction of the child's case. Permissible plan
862 goals are to:

- 863 1. Transfer custody of the child to his prior family;
- 864 2. Transfer custody of the child to a relative other than his prior family;
- 865 3. Finalize an adoption of the child;
- 866 4. Place the child in permanent foster care;
- 867 5. ~~Achieve~~ *Transition to* independent living; or
- 868 6. Place the child in another planned permanent living arrangement in accordance with subsection A
869 2 of § 16.1-282.1.

870 C. Each child in foster care shall be subject to the permanency planning and review procedures
871 established in §§ 16.1-281, 16.1-282, and 16.1-282.1.

872 § 63.2-1819. Where child-placing agencies may place children.

873 Any licensed child-placing agency may place or negotiate and arrange for the placement of children
874 in any licensed children's residential facility, and, unless its license contains a limitation to the contrary,
875 a licensed child-placing agency may also place or arrange for the placement of such persons in any
876 suitable foster home or independent living ~~placement~~ *arrangement*.