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HOUSE BILL NO. 1786

Offered January 11, 2023

Prefiled January 10, 2023

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 16.1-228 and 63.2-100 of the Code of Virginia, relating to child abuse or neglect; definition; independent activities.

Patron—Gooditis

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 16.1-228 and 63.2-100 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows: § 16.1-228. Definitions.

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

"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. Further, a decision by parents who have legal authority for the child or, in the absence of parents with legal authority for the child, any person with legal authority for the child who refuses a particular medical treatment for a child with a life-threatening condition shall not be deemed a refusal to provide necessary care if (i) such decision is made jointly by the parents or other person with legal authority and the child; (ii) the child has reached 14 years of age and is sufficiently mature to have an informed opinion on the subject of his medical treatment; (iii) the parents or other person with legal authority and the child have considered alternative treatment options; and (iv) the parents or other person with legal authority and the child believe in good faith that such decision is in the child's best interest. No child whose parent or other person responsible for his care allows the child to engage in reasonable independent activities without adult supervision shall for that reason alone be considered to be an abused or neglected child, provided that such independent activities are appropriate based on the child's age, maturity, and physical and mental abilities. Such independent activities include traveling to or from school or nearby locations by bicycle or on foot, playing outdoors, remaining at home for a reasonable period of time, or remaining in a vehicle if such vehicle is parked in a safe location and the temperature is not and will not become dangerously hot or cold. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to limit the provisions of § 16.1-278.4;

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

4. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care, or an intimate partner of such parent or person, commits or allows to be committed any act of sexual exploitation or 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;

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 § 55.1-2000, 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 Tier III offender pursuant to § 9.1-902; or

7. Who has been identified as a victim of sex trafficking or severe forms of trafficking as defined in the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, 22 U.S.C. § 7102 et seq., and in the federal Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, 42 U.S.C. § 5101 et seq.

If a civil proceeding under this chapter is based solely on the parent having left the child at a

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59 hospital or emergency medical services agency, it shall be an affirmative defense that such parent safely
60 delivered the child within 30 days of the child's birth to (i) a hospital that provides 24-hour emergency
61 services, (ii) an attended emergency medical services agency that employs emergency medical services
62 personnel, or (iii) a newborn safety device located at and operated by such hospital or emergency
63 medical services agency. For purposes of terminating parental rights pursuant to § 16.1-283 and
64 placement for adoption, the court may find such a child is a neglected child upon the ground of
65 abandonment.

66 "Adoptive home" means the place of residence of any natural person in which a child resides as a
67 member of the household and in which he has been placed for the purposes of adoption or in which he
68 has been legally adopted by another member of the household.

69 "Adult" means a person 18 years of age or older.

70 "Ancillary crime" or "ancillary charge" means any delinquent act committed by a juvenile as a part
71 of the same act or transaction as, or that constitutes a part of a common scheme or plan with, a
72 delinquent act that would be a felony if committed by an adult.

73 "Child," "juvenile," or "minor" means a person who is (i) younger than 18 years of age or (ii) for
74 purposes of the Fostering Futures program set forth in Article 2 (§ 63.2-917 et seq.) of Chapter 9 of
75 Title 63.2, younger than 21 years of age and meets the eligibility criteria set forth in § 63.2-919.

76 "Child in need of services" means (i) a child whose behavior, conduct or condition presents or results
77 in a serious threat to the well-being and physical safety of the child or (ii) a child under the age of 14
78 whose behavior, conduct or condition presents or results in a serious threat to the well-being and
79 physical safety of another person; however, no child who in good faith is under treatment solely by
80 spiritual means through prayer in accordance with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or
81 religious denomination shall for that reason alone be considered to be a child in need of services, nor
82 shall any child who habitually remains away from or habitually deserts or abandons his family as a
83 result of what the court or the local child protective services unit determines to be incidents of physical,
84 emotional or sexual abuse in the home be considered a child in need of services for that reason alone.

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

90 "Child in need of supervision" means:

91 1. A child who, while subject to compulsory school attendance, is habitually and without justification
92 absent from school, and (i) the child has been offered an adequate opportunity to receive the benefit of
93 any and all educational services and programs that are required to be provided by law and which meet
94 the child's particular educational needs, (ii) the school system from which the child is absent or other
95 appropriate agency has made a reasonable effort to effect the child's regular attendance without success,
96 and (iii) the school system has provided documentation that it has complied with the provisions of
97 § 22.1-258; or

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

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

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

109 "Delinquent act" means (i) an act designated a crime under the law of the Commonwealth, or an
110 ordinance of any city, county, town, or service district, or under federal law, (ii) a violation of
111 § 18.2-308.7, or (iii) a violation of a court order as provided for in § 16.1-292, but does not include an
112 act other than a violation of § 18.2-308.7, which is otherwise lawful, but is designated a crime only if
113 committed by a child.

114 "Delinquent child" means a child who has committed a delinquent act or an adult who has committed
115 a delinquent act prior to his 18th birthday, except where the jurisdiction of the juvenile court has been
116 terminated under the provisions of § 16.1-269.6.

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

120 "Driver's license" means any document issued under Chapter 3 (§ 46.2-300 et seq.) of Title 46.2, or

121 the comparable law of another jurisdiction, authorizing the operation of a motor vehicle upon the
122 highways.

123 "Family abuse" means any act involving violence, force, or threat that results in bodily injury or
124 places one in reasonable apprehension of death, sexual assault, or bodily injury and that is committed by
125 a person against such person's family or household member. Such act includes, but is not limited to, any
126 forceful detention, stalking, criminal sexual assault in violation of Article 7 (§ 18.2-61 et seq.) of
127 Chapter 4 of Title 18.2, or any criminal offense that results in bodily injury or places one in reasonable
128 apprehension of death, sexual assault, or bodily injury.

129 "Family or household member" means (i) the person's spouse, whether or not he or she resides in the
130 same home with the person, (ii) the person's former spouse, whether or not he or she resides in the same
131 home with the person, (iii) the person's parents, stepparents, children, stepchildren, brothers, sisters,
132 half-brothers, half-sisters, grandparents and grandchildren, regardless of whether such persons reside in
133 the same home with the person, (iv) the person's mother-in-law, father-in-law, sons-in-law,
134 daughters-in-law, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law who reside in the same home with the person, (v)
135 any individual who has a child in common with the person, whether or not the person and that
136 individual have been married or have resided together at any time, or (vi) any individual who cohabits
137 or who, within the previous 12 months, cohabited with the person, and any children of either of them
138 then residing in the same home with the person.

139 "Fictive kin" means persons who are not related to a child by blood or adoption but have an
140 established relationship with the child or his family.

141 "Foster care services" means the provision of a full range of casework, treatment and community
142 services for a planned period of time to a child who is abused or neglected as defined in § 63.2-100 or
143 in need of services as defined in this section and his family when the child (i) has been identified as
144 needing services to prevent or eliminate the need for foster care placement, (ii) has been placed through
145 an agreement between the local board of social services or a public agency designated by the
146 community policy and management team and the parents or guardians where legal custody remains with
147 the parents or guardians, (iii) has been committed or entrusted to a local board of social services or
148 child welfare agency, (iv) has been placed under the supervisory responsibility of the local board
149 pursuant to § 16.1-293, or (v) is living with a relative participating in the Federal-Funded Kinship
150 Guardianship Assistance program set forth in § 63.2-1305 and developed consistent with 42 U.S.C.
151 § 673 or the State-Funded Kinship Guardianship Assistance program set forth in § 63.2-1306.

152 "Independent living arrangement" means placement of (i) a child at least 16 years of age who is in
153 the custody of a local board or licensed child-placing agency by the local board or licensed child-placing
154 agency or (ii) a child at least 16 years of age or a person between the ages of 18 and 21 who was
155 committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice immediately prior to placement by the Department of
156 Juvenile Justice, in a living arrangement in which such child or person does not have daily substitute
157 parental supervision.

158 "Independent living services" means services and activities provided to a child in foster care 14 years
159 of age or older and who has been committed or entrusted to a local board of social services, child
160 welfare agency, or private child-placing agency. "Independent living services" may also mean services
161 and activities provided to a person who (i) was in foster care on his 18th birthday and has not yet
162 reached the age of 21 years; (ii) is between the ages of 18 and 21 and who, immediately prior to his
163 commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice, was in the custody of a local board of social
164 services; or (iii) is a child at least 16 years of age or a person between the ages of 18 and 21 who was
165 committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice immediately prior to placement in an independent
166 living arrangement. "Independent living services" includes counseling, education, housing, employment,
167 and money management skills development and access to essential documents and other appropriate
168 services to help children or persons prepare for self-sufficiency.

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

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

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

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

179 "Legal custody" means (i) a legal status created by court order which vests in a custodian the right to
180 have physical custody of the child, to determine and redetermine where and with whom he shall live,
181 the right and duty to protect, train and discipline him and to provide him with food, shelter, education

182 and ordinary medical care, all subject to any residual parental rights and responsibilities or (ii) the legal
183 status created by court order of joint custody as defined in § 20-107.2.

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

191 "Qualified individual" means a trained professional or licensed clinician who is not an employee of
192 the local board of social services or licensed child-placing agency that placed the child in a qualified
193 residential treatment program and is not affiliated with any placement setting in which children are
194 placed by such local board of social services or licensed child-placing agency.

195 "Qualified residential treatment program" means a program that (i) provides 24-hour residential
196 placement services for children in foster care; (ii) has adopted a trauma-informed treatment model that
197 meets the clinical and other needs of children with serious emotional or behavioral disorders, including
198 any clinical or other needs identified through assessments conducted pursuant to clause (viii) of this
199 definition; (iii) employs registered or licensed nursing and other clinical staff who provide care, on site
200 and within the scope of their practice, and are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; (iv) conducts
201 outreach with the child's family members, including efforts to maintain connections between the child
202 and his siblings and other family; documents and maintains records of such outreach efforts; and
203 maintains contact information for any known biological family and fictive kin of the child; (v) whenever
204 appropriate and in the best interest of the child, facilitates participation by family members in the child's
205 treatment program before and after discharge and documents the manner in which such participation is
206 facilitated; (vi) provides discharge planning and family-based aftercare support for at least six months
207 after discharge; (vii) is licensed in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 671(a)(10) and accredited by an
208 organization approved by the federal Secretary of Health and Human Services; and (viii) requires that
209 any child placed in the program receive an assessment within 30 days of such placement by a qualified
210 individual that (a) assesses the strengths and needs of the child using an age-appropriate, evidence-based,
211 validated, and functional assessment tool approved by the Commissioner of Social Services; (b)
212 identifies whether the needs of the child can be met through placement with a family member or in a
213 foster home or, if not, in a placement setting authorized by 42 U.S.C. § 672(k)(2), including a qualified
214 residential treatment program, that would provide the most effective and appropriate level of care for the
215 child in the least restrictive environment and be consistent with the short-term and long-term goals
216 established for the child in his foster care or permanency plan; (c) establishes a list of short-term and
217 long-term mental and behavioral health goals for the child; and (d) is documented in a written report to
218 be filed with the court prior to any hearing on the child's placement pursuant to § 16.1-281, 16.1-282,
219 16.1-282.1, or 16.1-282.2.

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

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

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

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

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

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

233 "Violent juvenile felony" means any of the delinquent acts enumerated in subsection B or C of
234 § 16.1-269.1 when committed by a juvenile 14 years of age or older.

235 § 63.2-100. Definitions.

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

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

238 1. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care creates or inflicts, threatens to create or
239 inflict, or allows to be created or inflicted upon such child a physical or mental injury by other than
240 accidental means, or creates a substantial risk of death, disfigurement, or impairment of bodily or mental
241 functions, including, but not limited to, a child who is with his parent or other person responsible for his
242 care either (i) during the manufacture or attempted manufacture of a Schedule I or II controlled
243 substance, or (ii) during the unlawful sale of such substance by that child's parents or other person

244 responsible for his care, where such manufacture, or attempted manufacture or unlawful sale would
245 constitute a felony violation of § 18.2-248;

246 2. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care neglects or refuses to provide care
247 necessary for his health. However, no child who in good faith is under treatment solely by spiritual
248 means through prayer in accordance with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious
249 denomination shall for that reason alone be considered to be an abused or neglected child. Further, a
250 decision by parents who have legal authority for the child or, in the absence of parents with legal
251 authority for the child, any person with legal authority for the child, who refuses a particular medical
252 treatment for a child with a life-threatening condition shall not be deemed a refusal to provide necessary
253 care if (i) such decision is made jointly by the parents or other person with legal authority and the child;
254 (ii) the child has reached 14 years of age and is sufficiently mature to have an informed opinion on the
255 subject of his medical treatment; (iii) the parents or other person with legal authority and the child have
256 considered alternative treatment options; and (iv) the parents or other person with legal authority and the
257 child believe in good faith that such decision is in the child's best interest. *No child whose parent or
258 other person responsible for his care allows the child to engage in reasonable independent activities
259 without adult supervision shall for that reason alone be considered to be an abused or neglected child,
260 provided that such independent activities are appropriate based on the child's age, maturity, and
261 physical and mental abilities. Such independent activities include traveling to or from school or nearby
262 locations by bicycle or on foot, playing outdoors, remaining at home for a reasonable period of time, or
263 remaining in a vehicle if such vehicle is parked in a safe location and the temperature is not and will
264 not become dangerously hot or cold.* Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to limit the
265 provisions of § 16.1-278.4;

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

267 4. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care, or an intimate partner of such parent or
268 person, commits or allows to be committed any act of sexual exploitation or any sexual act upon a child
269 in violation of the law;

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

273 6. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care creates a substantial risk of physical or
274 mental injury by knowingly leaving the child alone in the same dwelling, including an apartment as
275 defined in § 55.1-2000, with a person to whom the child is not related by blood or marriage and who
276 the parent or other person responsible for his care knows has been convicted of an offense against a
277 minor for which registration is required as a Tier III offender pursuant to § 9.1-902; or

278 7. Who has been identified as a victim of sex trafficking or severe forms of trafficking as defined in
279 the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, 22 U.S.C § 7102 et seq., and in the Justice for Victims
280 of Trafficking Act of 2015, 42 U.S.C. § 5101 et seq.

281 If a civil proceeding under this title is based solely on the parent having left the child at a hospital
282 or emergency medical services agency, it shall be an affirmative defense that such parent safely
283 delivered the child within 30 days of the child's birth to (i) a hospital that provides 24-hour emergency
284 services, (ii) an attended emergency medical services agency that employs emergency medical services
285 providers, or (iii) a newborn safety device located at and operated by such hospital or emergency
286 medical services agency. For purposes of terminating parental rights pursuant to § 16.1-283 and
287 placement for adoption, the court may find such a child is a neglected child upon the ground of
288 abandonment.

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

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

293 "Adult abuse" means the willful infliction of physical pain, injury or mental anguish or unreasonable
294 confinement of an adult as defined in § 63.2-1603.

295 "Adult day care center" means any facility that is either operated for profit or that desires licensure
296 and that provides supplementary care and protection during only a part of the day to four or more aged,
297 infirm or disabled adults who reside elsewhere, except (i) a facility or portion of a facility licensed by
298 the State Board of Health or the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, and (ii)
299 the home or residence of an individual who cares for only persons related to him by blood or marriage.
300 Included in this definition are any two or more places, establishments or institutions owned, operated or
301 controlled by a single entity and providing such supplementary care and protection to a combined total
302 of four or more aged, infirm or disabled adults.

303 "Adult exploitation" means the illegal, unauthorized, improper, or fraudulent use of an adult as
304 defined in § 63.2-1603 or his funds, property, benefits, resources, or other assets for another's profit,

305 benefit, or advantage, including a caregiver or person serving in a fiduciary capacity, or that deprives the
306 adult of his rightful use of or access to such funds, property, benefits, resources, or other assets. "Adult
307 exploitation" includes (i) an intentional breach of a fiduciary obligation to an adult to his detriment or
308 an intentional failure to use the financial resources of an adult in a manner that results in neglect of
309 such adult; (ii) the acquisition, possession, or control of an adult's financial resources or property
310 through the use of undue influence, coercion, or duress; and (iii) forcing or coercing an adult to pay for
311 goods or services or perform services against his will for another's profit, benefit, or advantage if the
312 adult did not agree, or was tricked, misled, or defrauded into agreeing, to pay for such goods or services
313 or to perform such services.

314 "Adult foster care" means room and board, supervision, and special services to an adult who has a
315 physical or mental condition. Adult foster care may be provided by a single provider for up to three
316 adults. "Adult foster care" does not include services or support provided to individuals through the
317 Fostering Futures program set forth in Article 2 (§ 63.2-917 et seq.) of Chapter 9.

318 "Adult neglect" means that an adult as defined in § 63.2-1603 is living under such circumstances
319 that he is not able to provide for himself or is not being provided services necessary to maintain his
320 physical and mental health and that the failure to receive such necessary services impairs or threatens to
321 impair his well-being. However, no adult shall be considered neglected solely on the basis that such
322 adult is receiving religious nonmedical treatment or religious nonmedical nursing care in lieu of medical
323 care, provided that such treatment or care is performed in good faith and in accordance with the
324 religious practices of the adult and there is a written or oral expression of consent by that adult.

325 "Adult protective services" means services provided by the local department that are necessary to
326 protect an adult as defined in § 63.2-1603 from abuse, neglect or exploitation.

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

330 "Assisted living facility" means any congregate residential setting that provides or coordinates
331 personal and health care services, 24-hour supervision, and assistance (scheduled and unscheduled) for
332 the maintenance or care of four or more adults who are aged, infirm or disabled and who are cared for
333 in a primarily residential setting, except (i) a facility or portion of a facility licensed by the State Board
334 of Health or the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, but including any
335 portion of such facility not so licensed; (ii) the home or residence of an individual who cares for or
336 maintains only persons related to him by blood or marriage; (iii) a facility or portion of a facility
337 serving infirm or disabled persons between the ages of 18 and 21, or 22 if enrolled in an educational
338 program for the handicapped pursuant to § 22.1-214, when such facility is licensed by the Department as
339 a children's residential facility under Chapter 17 (§ 63.2-1700 et seq.), but including any portion of the
340 facility not so licensed; and (iv) any housing project for persons 62 years of age or older or the disabled
341 that provides no more than basic coordination of care services and is funded by the U.S. Department of
342 Housing and Urban Development, by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, or by the Virginia Housing
343 Development Authority. Included in this definition are any two or more places, establishments or
344 institutions owned or operated by a single entity and providing maintenance or care to a combined total
345 of four or more aged, infirm or disabled adults. Maintenance or care means the protection, general
346 supervision and oversight of the physical and mental well-being of an aged, infirm or disabled
347 individual.

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

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

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

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

355 "Child" means any natural person who is (i) under 18 years of age or (ii) for purposes of the
356 Fostering Futures program set forth in Article 2 (§ 63.2-917 et seq.) of Chapter 9, under 21 years of age
357 and meets the eligibility criteria set forth in § 63.2-919.

358 "Child-placing agency" means (i) any person who places children in foster homes, adoptive homes or
359 independent living arrangements pursuant to § 63.2-1819, (ii) a local board that places children in foster
360 homes or adoptive homes pursuant to §§ 63.2-900, 63.2-903, and 63.2-1221, or (iii) an entity that assists
361 parents with the process of delegating parental and legal custodial powers of their children pursuant to
362 Chapter 10 (§ 20-166 et seq.) of Title 20. "Child-placing agency" does not include the persons to whom
363 such parental or legal custodial powers are delegated pursuant to Chapter 10 (§ 20-166 et seq.) of Title
364 20. Officers, employees, or agents of the Commonwealth, or any locality acting within the scope of their
365 authority as such, who serve as or maintain a child-placing agency, shall not be required to be licensed.

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

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

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

374 "Child-welfare agency" means a child-placing agency, children's residential facility, or independent
 375 foster home.

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

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

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

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

386 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Department, his designee or authorized
 387 representative.

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

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

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

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

400 "Family and permanency team" means the group of individuals assembled by the local department to
 401 assist with determining planning and placement options for a child, which shall include, as appropriate,
 402 all biological relatives and fictive kin of the child, as well as any professionals who have served as a
 403 resource to the child or his family, such as teachers, medical or mental health providers, and clergy
 404 members. In the case of a child who is 14 years of age or older, the family and permanency team shall
 405 also include any members of the child's case planning team that were selected by the child in
 406 accordance with subsection A of § 16.1-281.

407 "Federal-Funded Kinship Guardianship Assistance program" means a program consistent with 42
 408 U.S.C. § 673 that provides, subject to a kinship guardianship assistance agreement developed in
 409 accordance with § 63.2-1305, payments to eligible individuals who have received custody of a child of
 410 whom they had been the foster parents.

411 "Fictive kin" means persons who are not related to a child by blood or adoption but have an
 412 established relationship with the child or his family.

413 "Foster care placement" means placement of a child through (i) an agreement between the parents or
 414 guardians and the local board where legal custody remains with the parents or guardians or (ii) an
 415 entrustment or commitment of the child to the local board or licensed child-placing agency. "Foster care
 416 placement" does not include placement of a child in accordance with a power of attorney pursuant to
 417 Chapter 10 (§ 20-166 et seq.) of Title 20.

418 "Foster home" means a residence approved by a child-placing agency or local board in which any
 419 child, other than a child by birth or adoption of such person or a child who is the subject of a power of
 420 attorney to delegate parental or legal custodial powers by his parents or legal custodian to the natural
 421 person who has been designated the child's legal guardian pursuant to Chapter 10 (§ 20-166 et seq.) of
 422 Title 20 and who exercises legal authority over the child on a continuous basis for at least 24 hours
 423 without compensation, resides as a member of the household.

424 "General relief" means money payments and other forms of relief made to those persons mentioned
 425 in § 63.2-802 in accordance with the regulations of the Board and reimbursable in accordance with §
 426 63.2-401.

427 "Independent foster home" means a private family home in which any child, other than a child by

428 birth or adoption of such person, resides as a member of the household and has been placed therein
429 independently of a child-placing agency except (i) a home in which are received only children related by
430 birth or adoption of the person who maintains such home and children of personal friends of such
431 person; (ii) a home in which is received a child or children committed under the provisions of
432 subdivision A 4 of § 16.1-278.2, subdivision 6 of § 16.1-278.4, or subdivision A 13 of § 16.1-278.8;
433 and (iii) a home in which are received only children who are the subject of a properly executed power
434 of attorney pursuant to Chapter 10 (§ 20-166 et seq.) of Title 20.

435 "Independent living" means a planned program of services designed to assist a child age 16 and over
436 and persons who are former foster care children or were formerly committed to the Department of
437 Juvenile Justice and are between the ages of 18 and 21 in transitioning to self-sufficiency.

438 "Independent living arrangement" means placement of (i) a child at least 16 years of age who is in
439 the custody of a local board or licensed child-placing agency by the local board or licensed child-placing
440 agency or (ii) a child at least 16 years of age or a person between the ages of 18 and 21 who was
441 committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice immediately prior to placement by the Department of
442 Juvenile Justice, in a living arrangement in which such child or person does not have daily substitute
443 parental supervision.

444 "Independent living services" means services and activities provided to a child in foster care 14 years
445 of age or older who was committed or entrusted to a local board of social services, child welfare
446 agency, or private child-placing agency. "Independent living services" may also mean services and
447 activities provided to a person who (i) was in foster care on his 18th birthday and has not yet reached
448 the age of 21 years; (ii) is between the ages of 18 and 21 and who, immediately prior to his
449 commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice, was in the custody of a local board of social
450 services; or (iii) is a child at least 16 years of age or a person between the ages of 18 and 21 who was
451 committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice immediately prior to placement in an independent
452 living arrangement. Such services shall include counseling, education, housing, employment, and money
453 management skills development, access to essential documents, and other appropriate services to help
454 children or persons prepare for self-sufficiency.

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

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

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

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

468 "Kinship guardian" means the adult relative of a child in a kinship guardianship established in
469 accordance with § 63.2-1305 or 63.2-1306 who has been awarded custody of the child by the court after
470 acting as the child's foster parent.

471 "Kinship guardianship" means a relationship established in accordance with § 63.2-1305 or 63.2-1306
472 between a child and an adult relative of the child who has formerly acted as the child's foster parent that
473 is intended to be permanent and self-sustaining as evidenced by the transfer by the court to the adult
474 relative of the child of the authority necessary to ensure the protection, education, care and control, and
475 custody of the child and the authority for decision making for the child.

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

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

479 "Local director" means the director or his designated representative of the local department of the
480 city or county.

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

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

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

489 "Qualified assessor" means an entity contracting with the Department of Medical Assistance Services

490 to perform nursing facility pre-admission screening or to complete the uniform assessment instrument for
 491 a home and community-based waiver program, including an independent physician contracting with the
 492 Department of Medical Assistance Services to complete the uniform assessment instrument for residents
 493 of assisted living facilities, or any hospital that has contracted with the Department of Medical
 494 Assistance Services to perform nursing facility pre-admission screenings.

495 "Qualified individual" means a trained professional or licensed clinician who is not an employee of
 496 the local board of social services or licensed child-placing agency that placed the child in a qualified
 497 residential treatment program and is not affiliated with any placement setting in which children are
 498 placed by such local board of social services or licensed child-placing agency.

499 "Qualified residential treatment program" means a program that (i) provides 24-hour residential
 500 placement services for children in foster care; (ii) has adopted a trauma-informed treatment model that
 501 meets the clinical and other needs of children with serious emotional or behavioral disorders, including
 502 any clinical or other needs identified through assessments conducted pursuant to clause (viii) of this
 503 definition; (iii) employs registered or licensed nursing and other clinical staff who provide care, on site
 504 and within the scope of their practice, and are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; (iv) conducts
 505 outreach with the child's family members, including efforts to maintain connections between the child
 506 and his siblings and other family; documents and maintains records of such outreach efforts; and
 507 maintains contact information for any known biological family and fictive kin of the child; (v) whenever
 508 appropriate and in the best interest of the child, facilitates participation by family members in the child's
 509 treatment program before and after discharge and documents the manner in which such participation is
 510 facilitated; (vi) provides discharge planning and family-based aftercare support for at least six months
 511 after discharge; (vii) is licensed in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 671(a)(10) and accredited by an
 512 organization approved by the federal Secretary of Health and Human Services; and (viii) requires that
 513 any child placed in the program receive an assessment within 30 days of such placement by a qualified
 514 individual that (a) assesses the strengths and needs of the child using an age-appropriate, evidence-based,
 515 validated, and functional assessment tool approved by the Commissioner of Social Services; (b)
 516 identifies whether the needs of the child can be met through placement with a family member or in a
 517 foster home or, if not, in a placement setting authorized by 42 U.S.C. § 672(k)(2), including a qualified
 518 residential treatment program, that would provide the most effective and appropriate level of care for the
 519 child in the least restrictive environment and be consistent with the short-term and long-term goals
 520 established for the child in his foster care or permanency plan; (c) establishes a list of short-term and
 521 long-term mental and behavioral health goals for the child; and (d) is documented in a written report to
 522 be filed with the court prior to any hearing on the child's placement pursuant to § 16.1-281, 16.1-282,
 523 16.1-282.1, or 16.1-282.2.

524 "Residential living care" means a level of service provided by an assisted living facility for adults
 525 who may have physical or mental impairments and require only minimal assistance with the activities of
 526 daily living. The definition of "residential living care" includes the services provided by independent
 527 living facilities that voluntarily become licensed.

528 "Sibling" means each of two or more children having one or more parents in common.

529 "Social services" means foster care, adoption, adoption assistance, child-protective services, domestic
 530 violence services, or any other services program implemented in accordance with regulations adopted by
 531 the Board. Social services also includes adult services pursuant to Article 4 (§ 51.5-144 et seq.) of
 532 Chapter 14 of Title 51.5 and adult protective services pursuant to Article 5 (§ 51.5-148) of Chapter 14
 533 of Title 51.5 provided by local departments of social services in accordance with regulations and under
 534 the supervision of the Commissioner for Aging and Rehabilitative Services.

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

538 "State-Funded Kinship Guardianship Assistance program" means a program that provides payments to
 539 eligible individuals who have received custody of a relative child subject to a kinship guardianship
 540 assistance agreement developed in accordance with § 63.2-1306.

541 "Supervised independent living setting" means the residence of a person 18 years of age or older
 542 who is participating in the Fostering Futures program set forth in Article 2 (§ 63.2-917 et seq.) of
 543 Chapter 9 where supervision includes a monthly visit with a service worker or, when appropriate,
 544 contracted supervision. "Supervised independent living setting" does not include residential facilities or
 545 group homes.

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

549 "Temporary Assistance for Needy Families-Unemployed Parent" or "TANF-UP" means the
 550 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program for families in which both natural or adoptive

551 parents of a child reside in the home and neither parent is exempt from Virginia Initiative for Education
552 and Work (VIEW) participation under § 63.2-609.
553 "Title IV-E Foster Care" means a federal program authorized under §§ 472 and 473 of the Social
554 Security Act, as amended, and administered by the Department through which foster care is provided on
555 behalf of qualifying children.