

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

An Act to amend and reenact § 16.1-241 of the Code of Virginia, as it is currently effective and as it may become effective, and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 16.1-241.2, relating to proceedings against certain parents; penalty.

[H 730]

Approved

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 16.1-241 of the Code of Virginia, as it is currently effective and as it may become effective, is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 16.1-241.2 as follows:

§ 16.1-241. Jurisdiction.

The judges of the juvenile and domestic relations district court elected or appointed under this law shall be conservators of the peace within the corporate limits of the cities and the boundaries of the counties for which they are respectively chosen and within one mile beyond the limits of such cities and counties. Except as hereinafter provided, each juvenile and domestic relations district court shall have, within the limits of the territory for which it is created, exclusive original jurisdiction, and within one mile beyond the limits of said city or county, concurrent jurisdiction with the juvenile court or courts of the adjoining city or county over all cases, matters and proceedings involving:

A. The custody, visitation, support, control or disposition of a child:

1. Who is alleged to be abused, neglected, in need of services, in need of supervision, a status offender, or delinquent;

2. Who is abandoned by his parent or other custodian or who by reason of the absence or physical or mental incapacity of his parents is without parental care and guardianship;

2a. Who is at risk of being abused or neglected by a parent or custodian who has been adjudicated as having abused or neglected another child in the care of the parent or custodian;

3. Whose custody, visitation or support is a subject of controversy or requires determination. In such cases jurisdiction shall be concurrent with and not exclusive of courts having equity jurisdiction, except as provided in § 16.1-244;

4. Who is the subject of an entrustment agreement entered into pursuant to § 63.1-56 or § 63.1-204 or whose parent or parents for good cause desire to be relieved of his care and custody;

5. Where the termination of residual parental rights and responsibilities is sought. In such cases jurisdiction shall be concurrent with and not exclusive of courts having equity jurisdiction, as provided in § 16.1-244;

6. Who is charged with a traffic infraction as defined in § 46.2-100.

The authority of the juvenile court to adjudicate matters involving the custody, visitation, support, control or disposition of a child shall not be limited to the consideration of petitions filed by a mother, father or legal guardian but shall include petitions filed at any time by any party with a legitimate interest therein. A party with a legitimate interest shall be broadly construed and shall include, but not be limited to, grandparents, stepparents, former stepparents, blood relatives and family members. The authority of the juvenile court to consider a petition involving the custody of a child shall not be proscribed or limited where the child has previously been awarded to the custody of a local board of social services.

B. The admission of minors for inpatient treatment in a mental health facility in accordance with the provisions of Article 16 (§ 16.1-335 et seq.) of this chapter and the commitment of a mentally ill person or judicial certification of eligibility for admission to a treatment facility of a mentally retarded person in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 1 (§ 37.1-1 et seq.) and 2 (§ 37.1-63 et seq.) of Title 37.1. Jurisdiction of the commitment and certification of adults shall be concurrent with the general district court.

C. Except as provided in subsections D and H hereof, judicial consent to such activities as may require parental consent may be given for a child who has been separated from his parents, guardian, legal custodian or other person standing in loco parentis and is in the custody of the court when such consent is required by law.

D. Judicial consent for emergency surgical or medical treatment for a child who is neither married nor has ever been married, when the consent of his parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person standing in loco parentis is unobtainable because such parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person standing in loco parentis (i) is not a resident of this Commonwealth, (ii) his whereabouts is unknown, (iii) he cannot be consulted with promptness, reasonable under the circumstances or (iv) fails to give

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58 such consent or provide such treatment when requested by the judge to do so.

59 E. Any person charged with deserting, abandoning or failing to provide support for any person in
60 violation of law.

61 F. Any parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person standing in loco parentis of a child:

62 1. Who has been abused or neglected;

63 2. Who is the subject of an entrustment agreement entered into pursuant to § 63.1-56 or § 63.1-204
64 or is otherwise before the court pursuant to subdivision A 4 of this section;

65 3. Who has been adjudicated in need of services, in need of supervision, or delinquent, if the court
66 finds that such person has by overt act or omission induced, caused, encouraged or contributed to the
67 conduct of the child complained of in the petition.

68 G. Petitions filed by or on behalf of a child or such child's parent, guardian, legal custodian or other
69 person standing in loco parentis for the purpose of obtaining treatment, rehabilitation or other services
70 which are required by law to be provided for that child or such child's parent, guardian, legal custodian
71 or other person standing in loco parentis. Jurisdiction in such cases shall be concurrent with and not
72 exclusive of that of courts having equity jurisdiction as provided in § 16.1-244.

73 H. Judicial consent to apply for work permit for a child when such child is separated from his
74 parents, legal guardian or other person standing in loco parentis.

75 I. The prosecution and punishment of persons charged with ill-treatment, abuse, abandonment or
76 neglect of children or with any violation of law which causes or tends to cause a child to come within
77 the purview of this law, or with any other offense against the person of a child. In prosecution for
78 felonies over which the court has jurisdiction, jurisdiction shall be limited to determining whether or not
79 there is probable cause.

80 J. All offenses in which one family or household member is charged with an offense in which
81 another family or household member is the victim. In prosecution for felonies over which the court has
82 jurisdiction, jurisdiction shall be limited to determining whether or not there is probable cause. For
83 purposes of this subsection, "family or household member," as defined in § 16.1-228, shall also be
84 construed to include parent and child, stepparent and stepchild, brothers and sisters, and grandparent and
85 grandchild, regardless of whether such persons reside in the same home.

86 K. Petitions filed by a natural parent, whose parental rights to a child have been voluntarily
87 relinquished pursuant to a court proceeding, to seek a reversal of the court order terminating such
88 parental rights. No such petition shall be accepted, however, after the child has been placed in the home
89 of adoptive parents.

90 L. Any person who seeks spousal support after having separated from his spouse. A decision under
91 this subdivision shall not be res judicata in any subsequent action for spousal support in a circuit court.
92 A circuit court shall have concurrent original jurisdiction in all causes of action under this subdivision.

93 M. Petitions filed for the purpose of obtaining an order of protection pursuant to § 16.1-253.1 or
94 § 16.1-279.1.

95 N. Any person who escapes or remains away without proper authority from a residential care facility
96 in which he had been placed by the court or as a result of his commitment to the Virginia Department
97 of Youth and Family Services.

98 O. Petitions for emancipation of a minor pursuant to Article 15 (§ 16.1-331 et seq.) of this chapter.

99 P. Petitions for enforcement of administrative support orders entered pursuant to Chapter 13
100 (§ 63.1-249 et seq.) of Title 63.1, or by another state in the same manner as if the orders were entered
101 by a juvenile and domestic relations district court upon the filing of a certified copy of such order in the
102 juvenile and domestic relations district court.

103 Q. Petitions for a determination of parentage pursuant to Chapter 3.1 (§ 20-49.1 et seq.) of Title 20.

104 R. Petitions for the purpose of obtaining an emergency protective order pursuant to § 16.1-253.4.

105 *S. Petitions filed by school boards against a parent pursuant to §§16.1-241.2 and 22.1-276.01.*

106 The ages specified in this law refer to the age of the child at the time of the acts complained of in
107 the petition.

108 § 16.1-241. (Delayed effective date) Jurisdiction.

109 The judges of the family court elected or appointed under this law shall be conservators of the peace
110 within the corporate limits of the cities and the boundaries of the counties for which they are
111 respectively chosen and within one mile beyond the limits of such cities and counties. Except as
112 hereinafter provided, each family court shall have, within the limits of the territory for which it is
113 created, exclusive original jurisdiction, and within one mile beyond the limits of said city or county,
114 concurrent jurisdiction with the family court or courts of the adjoining city or county over all cases,
115 matters and proceedings involving:

116 A. The custody, visitation, support, control or disposition of a child:

117 1. Who is alleged to be abused, neglected, in need of services, in need of supervision, a status
118 offender, or delinquent;

2. Who is abandoned by his parent or other custodian or who by reason of the absence or physical or mental incapacity of his parents is without parental care and guardianship;

2a. Who is at risk of being abused or neglected by a parent or custodian who has been adjudicated as having abused or neglected another child in the care of the parent or custodian;

3. Whose custody, visitation or support is a subject of controversy or requires determination;

4. Who is the subject of an entrustment agreement entered into pursuant to § 63.1-56 or § 63.1-204 or whose parent or parents for good cause desire to be relieved of his care and custody;

5. Where the termination of residual parental rights and responsibilities is sought;

6. Who is charged with a traffic infraction as defined in § 46.2-100.

The authority of the family court to adjudicate matters involving the custody, visitation, support, control or disposition of a child shall not be limited to the consideration of petitions filed by a mother, father or legal guardian but shall include petitions filed at any time by any party with a legitimate interest therein. A party with a legitimate interest shall be broadly construed and shall include, but not be limited to, grandparents, stepparents, former stepparents, blood relatives and family members. The authority of the family court to consider a petition involving the custody of a child shall not be proscribed or limited where the child has previously been awarded to the custody of a local board of social services.

B. The admission of minors for inpatient treatment in a mental health facility in accordance with the provisions of Article 16 (§ 16.1-335 et seq.) of this chapter and the commitment of a mentally ill person or judicial certification of eligibility for admission to a treatment facility of a mentally retarded person in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 1 (§ 37.1-1 et seq.) and 2 (§ 37.1-63 et seq.) of Title 37.1. Jurisdiction of the commitment and certification of adults shall be concurrent with the general district court.

C. Except as provided in subsections D and H hereof, judicial consent to such activities as may require parental consent may be given for a child who has been separated from his parents, guardian, legal custodian or other person standing in loco parentis and is in the custody of the court when such consent is required by law.

D. Judicial consent for emergency surgical or medical treatment for a child who is neither married nor has ever been married, when the consent of his parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person standing in loco parentis is unobtainable because such parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person standing in loco parentis (i) is not a resident of this Commonwealth, (ii) his whereabouts is unknown, (iii) cannot be consulted with promptness, reasonable under the circumstances or (iv) fails to give such consent or provide such treatment when requested by the judge to do so.

E. Any person charged with deserting, abandoning or failing to provide support for any person in violation of law pursuant to Chapter 5 (§ 20-61 et seq.) of Title 20.

F. Any parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person standing in loco parentis of a child:

1. Who has been abused or neglected;

2. Who is the subject of an entrustment agreement entered into pursuant to § 63.1-56 or § 63.1-204 or is otherwise before the court pursuant to subdivision A 4 of this section;

3. Who has been adjudicated in need of services, in need of supervision, or delinquent, if the court finds that such person has by overt act or omission induced, caused, encouraged or contributed to the conduct of the child complained of in the petition.

G. Petitions filed by or on behalf of a child or such child's parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person standing in loco parentis for the purpose of obtaining treatment, rehabilitation or other services which are required by law to be provided for that child or such child's parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person standing in loco parentis.

H. Judicial consent to apply for work permit for a child when such child is separated from his parents, legal guardian or other person standing in loco parentis.

I. The prosecution and punishment of persons charged with ill-treatment, abuse, abandonment or neglect of children or with any violation of law which causes or tends to cause a child to come within the purview of this law, or with any other offense against the person of a child. In prosecution for felonies over which the court has jurisdiction, jurisdiction shall be limited to determining whether or not there is probable cause.

J. All offenses in which one family or household member is charged with an offense in which another family or household member is the victim. In prosecution for felonies over which the court has jurisdiction, jurisdiction shall be limited to determining whether or not there is probable cause. For purposes of this subsection, "family or household member," as defined in § 16.1-228, shall also be construed to include parent and child, stepparent and stepchild, brothers and sisters, and grandparent and grandchild, regardless of whether such persons reside in the same home.

K. Petitions filed by a natural parent, whose parental rights to a child have been voluntarily relinquished pursuant to a court proceeding, to seek a reversal of the court order terminating such

parental rights. No such petition shall be accepted, however, after the child has been placed in the home of adoptive parents.

L. Any person who seeks spousal support after having separated from his spouse.

M. Petitions filed for the purpose of obtaining an order of protection pursuant to § 16.1-253.1 or § 16.1-279.1.

N. Any person who escapes or remains away without proper authority from a residential care facility in which he had been placed by the court or as a result of his commitment to the Virginia Department of Youth and Family Services.

O. Petitions for emancipation of a minor pursuant to Article 15 (§ 16.1-331 et seq.) of this chapter.

P. Petitions for enforcement of administrative support orders entered pursuant to Chapter 13 (§ 63.1-249 et seq.) of Title 63.1, or by another state in the same manner as if the orders were entered by a family court upon the filing of a certified copy of such order in the family court.

Q. Petitions for a determination of parentage pursuant to Chapter 3.1 (§ 20-49.1 et seq.) of Title 20.

R. Petitions for the purpose of obtaining an emergency protective order pursuant to § 16.1-253.4.

S. Suits for divorce and for annulling or affirming marriage in accordance with Title 20.

T. Suits for separate maintenance.

U. Suits for equitable distribution based on a foreign decree in accordance with § 20-107.3.

V. Petitions for adoption.

W. Petitions for change of name when incident to suits for annulling or affirming marriage, divorce, or adoption or when ancillary to any action within the jurisdiction of the family court.

X. Petitions regarding records of birth pursuant to Chapter 7 (§ 32.1-249 et seq.) of Title 32.1.

Y. Judicial review of school board actions pursuant to § 22.1-87 and of hearing officer decisions pursuant to §§ 22.1-214 and 22.1-214.1.

Z. *Petitions filed by school boards against a parent pursuant to §§ 16.1-241.2 and 22.1-276.01.*

The ages specified in this law refer to the age of the child at the time of the acts complained of in the petition.

§ 16.1-241.2. Proceedings against certain parents.

A. Upon the failure of a parent to comply with the provisions of § 22.1-276.01, the school board may, by petition to the juvenile and domestic relations court, proceed against such parent for willful and unreasonable refusal to participate in efforts to improve the student's behavior as follows:

1. If the court finds that the parent has willfully and unreasonably failed to return the statement required by subsection C of § 22.1-276.01, it may impose a civil penalty not to exceed \$50;

2. If the court finds that the parent has willfully and unreasonably failed to meet, pursuant to a request of the principal as set forth in subsection D of § 22.1-276.01, to review the school board's standards of student conduct and the parent's responsibility to assist the school in disciplining the student and maintaining order and to discuss improvement of the child's behavior and educational progress, it may order the parent to so meet; or

3. If the court finds that the parent has willfully and unreasonably failed to accompany a suspended student to meet with school officials pursuant to subsection F of § 22.1-276.01, or upon the student receiving a second suspension or being expelled, it may order (i) the student or his parent to participate in such programs or such treatment as the court deems appropriate to improve the student's behavior or (ii) the student or his parent to be subject to such conditions and limitations as the court deems appropriate for the supervision, care, and rehabilitation of the student or his parent; in addition, the court may order the parent to pay a civil penalty not to exceed \$500.

The court shall not use its contempt power to enforce any order entered under this section.

B. The civil penalties established pursuant to this section shall be enforceable in the juvenile and domestic relations court in which the student's school is located and shall be paid into a fund maintained by the appropriate local governing body to support programs or treatments designed to improve the behavior of students as described in clause (iii) of subsection G of § 22.1-276.01. Upon the failure to pay any civil penalties imposed by this section and § 22.1-276.01, the attorney for the appropriate county, city, or town shall enforce the collection of such civil penalties.

C. For the purposes of this section and § 22.1-276.01, "parent" or "parents" means any parent, guardian, legal custodian, or other person having control or charge of a child.