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A bill to be entitled An act relating to child welfare; amending s. 39.01, F.S.; defining the term "legal father" and redefining the term "parent"; amending s. 39.201, F.S.; providing that central abuse hotline information may be used for employment screening of residential group home caregivers; amending s. 39.301, F.S.; requiring a safety plan to be issued for a perpetrator of domestic violence only if the perpetrator can be located; specifying what constitutes reasonable efforts; requiring that a child new to a family under investigation be added to the investigation and assessed for safety; amending s. 39.302, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; providing that central abuse hotline information may be used for certain employment screenings; amending s. 39.402, F.S.; requiring a court to inquire as to the identity and location of a child's legal father at the shelter hearing; specifying what types of information fall within the scope of such inquiry; amending s. 39.503, F.S.; requiring a court to conduct under oath the inquiry to determine the identity or location of an unknown parent; requiring a court to seek additional information relating to a legal father's identity in such inquiry; requiring the diligent search to

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determine a parent's or prospective parent's location to include a search of the Florida Putative Father Registry; authorizing the court to order scientific testing to determine parentage if certain conditions exist; amending s. 39.504, F.S.; requiring the same judge to hear a pending dependency proceeding and an injunction proceeding; providing that the court may enter an injunction based on specified evidence; amending s. 39.507, F.S.; requiring a court to consider maltreatment allegations against a parent in an evidentiary hearing relating to a dependency petition; amending s. 39.5085, F.S.; revising eligibility guidelines for the Relative Caregiver Program with respect to relative and nonrelative caregivers; amending s. 39.521, F.S.; providing new time guidelines for filing with the court and providing copies of case plans and family functioning assessments; providing for assessment and program compliance for a parent who caused harm to a child by exposing the child to a controlled substance; providing in-home safety plan requirements; providing requirements for family functioning assessments; providing supervision requirements after reunification; amending s. 39.522, F.S.; providing conditions for returning a child home with an in-home

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safety plan; amending s. 39.6011, F.S.; providing requirements for confidential information in a case planning conference; providing restrictions; amending s. 39.6012, F.S.; providing for assessment and program compliance for a parent who caused harm to a child by exposing the child to a controlled substance; amending s. 39.6221, F.S.; providing that relocation requirements for parents in dissolution proceedings do not apply to permanent guardianships; amending s. 39.701, F.S.; providing safety assessment requirements for children coming into a home under court jurisdiction; granting rulemaking authority; amending s. 39.801, F.S.; providing an exception to the notice requirement regarding the advisory hearing for a petition to terminate parental rights; amending s. 39.803, F.S.; requiring a court to conduct under oath the inquiry to determine the identity or location of an unknown parent after the filing of a termination of parental rights petition; requiring a court to seek additional information relating to a legal father's identity in such inquiry; revising minimum requirements for the diligent search to determine the location of a parent or prospective parent; authorizing the court to order scientific testing to determine parentage if certain conditions exist;

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amending s. 39.806, F.S.; revising circumstances under which grounds for the termination of parental rights may be established; amending s. 39.811, F.S.; revising circumstances under which the rights of one parent may be terminated without terminating the rights of the other parent; amending s. 395.3025, F.S.; revising requirements for access to patient records; amending s. 402.40, F.S.; defining the term "child welfare trainer"; providing rulemaking authority; amending s. 456.057, F.S.; revising requirements for access to patient records; repealing s. 409.141, F.S., relating to equitable reimbursement methodology; repealing s. 409.1677, F.S., relating to model comprehensive residential services programs; amending ss. 39.524, 394.495, 409.1678, and 960.065, F.S.; conforming cross-references; amending ss. 409.1679 and 1002.3305, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; reenacting s. 483.181(2), F.S., relating to acceptance, collection, identification, and examination of specimens, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 456.057, F.S., in a reference thereto; providing an effective date.

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Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. Present subsections (35) through (80) of section 39.01, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (36) through (81), respectively, a new subsection (35) is added to that section, and subsections (10) and (32) and present subsection (49) of that section are amended, to read:

- 39.01 Definitions.—When used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:
- (10) "Caregiver" means the parent, legal custodian, permanent guardian, adult household member, or other person responsible for a child's welfare as defined in subsection (48).
- (32) "Institutional child abuse or neglect" means situations of known or suspected child abuse or neglect in which the person allegedly perpetrating the child abuse or neglect is an employee of a private school, public or private day care center, residential home, institution, facility, or agency or any other person at such institution responsible for the child's care as defined in subsection (48) (47).
- the time of conception or birth of their child, unless paternity has been otherwise determined by a court of competent jurisdiction. If no man was married to the mother at the time of birth or conception of the child, the term "legal father" means a man named on the birth certificate of the child pursuant to s. 382.013(2), a man determined by a court order to be the father

of the child, or a man determined by an administrative proceeding to be the father of the child.

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(50) (49) "Parent" means a woman who gives birth to a child and a man whose consent to the adoption of the child would be required under s. 63.062(1). "Parent" also means a man married to the mother at the time of conception or birth of their child, unless paternity has been otherwise determined by a court of competent jurisdiction. If no man was married to the mother at the time of birth or conception of the child, the term "legal father" means a man named on the birth certificate of the child pursuant to s. 382.013(2), a man determined by court order to be the father of the child, or a man determined by an administrative proceeding to be the father of the child. If a child has been legally adopted, the term "parent" means the adoptive mother or father of the child. For purposes of this chapter only, when the phrase "parent or legal custodian" is used, it refers to rights or responsibilities of the parent and, only if there is no living parent with intact parental rights, to the rights or responsibilities of the legal custodian who has assumed the role of the parent. The term does not include an individual whose parental relationship to the child has been legally terminated, or an alleged or prospective parent, unless:

- (a) The parental status falls within the terms of s. 39.503(1) or s. 63.062(1); or
 - (b) Parental status is applied for the purpose of

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Subsection (6) of section 39.201, Florida

153 Statutes, is amended to read: 154 39.201 Mandatory reports of child abuse, abandonment, or 155 neglect; mandatory reports of death; central abuse hotline.-156 Information in the central abuse hotline may not be 157 used for employment screening, except as provided in s. 39.202(2)(a) and (h) or s. 402.302(15). Information in the 158 159 central abuse hotline and the department's automated abuse information system may be used by the department, its authorized 160 agents or contract providers, the Department of Health, or 161 162 county agencies as part of the licensure or registration process

pursuant to ss. 402.301-402.319 and ss. 409.175-409.176.

Additionally, in accordance with s. 409.145(2)(e), the

Pursuant to s. 39.202(2)(q), the information in the central

abuse hotline may also be used by the Department of Education

for purposes of educator certification discipline and review.

determining whether the child has been abandoned.

Section 2.

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information in the central abuse hotline may be used for
employment screening for caregivers at residential group homes.
 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (9) of section
39.301, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (23) is
added to that section, to read:

39.301 Initiation of protective investigations.-

(9) (a) For each report received from the central abuse hotline and accepted for investigation, the department or the

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sheriff providing child protective investigative services under s. 39.3065, shall perform the following child protective investigation activities to determine child safety:

- 1. Conduct a review of all relevant, available information specific to the child and family and alleged maltreatment; family child welfare history; local, state, and federal criminal records checks; and requests for law enforcement assistance provided by the abuse hotline. Based on a review of available information, including the allegations in the current report, a determination shall be made as to whether immediate consultation should occur with law enforcement, the child protection team, a domestic violence shelter or advocate, or a substance abuse or mental health professional. Such consultations should include discussion as to whether a joint response is necessary and feasible. A determination shall be made as to whether the person making the report should be contacted before the face-to-face interviews with the child and family members.
- 2. Conduct face-to-face interviews with the child; other siblings, if any; and the parents, legal custodians, or caregivers.
- 3. Assess the child's residence, including a determination of the composition of the family and household, including the name, address, date of birth, social security number, sex, and race of each child named in the report; any siblings or other children in the same household or in the care of the same

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adults; the parents, legal custodians, or caregivers; and any other adults in the same household.

- 4. Determine whether there is any indication that any child in the family or household has been abused, abandoned, or neglected; the nature and extent of present or prior injuries, abuse, or neglect, and any evidence thereof; and a determination as to the person or persons apparently responsible for the abuse, abandonment, or neglect, including the name, address, date of birth, social security number, sex, and race of each such person.
- 5. Complete assessment of immediate child safety for each child based on available records, interviews, and observations with all persons named in subparagraph 2. and appropriate collateral contacts, which may include other professionals. The department's child protection investigators are hereby designated a criminal justice agency for the purpose of accessing criminal justice information to be used for enforcing this state's laws concerning the crimes of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect. This information shall be used solely for purposes supporting the detection, apprehension, prosecution, pretrial release, posttrial release, or rehabilitation of criminal offenders or persons accused of the crimes of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect and may not be further disseminated or used for any other purpose.
 - 6. Document the present and impending dangers to each

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child based on the identification of inadequate protective capacity through utilization of a standardized safety assessment instrument. If present or impending danger is identified, the child protective investigator must implement a safety plan or take the child into custody. If present danger is identified and the child is not removed, the child protective investigator shall create and implement a safety plan before leaving the home or the location where there is present danger. If impending danger is identified, the child protective investigator shall create and implement a safety plan as soon as necessary to protect the safety of the child. The child protective investigator may modify the safety plan if he or she identifies additional impending danger.

a. If the child protective investigator implements a safety plan, the plan must be specific, sufficient, feasible, and sustainable in response to the realities of the present or impending danger. A safety plan may be an in-home plan or an out-of-home plan, or a combination of both. A safety plan may include tasks or responsibilities for a parent, caregiver, or legal custodian. However, a safety plan may not rely on promissory commitments by the parent, caregiver, or legal custodian who is currently not able to protect the child or on services that are not available or will not result in the safety of the child. A safety plan may not be implemented if for any reason the parents, guardian, or legal custodian lacks the

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capacity or ability to comply with the plan. If the department is not able to develop a plan that is specific, sufficient, feasible, and sustainable, the department shall file a shelter petition. A child protective investigator shall implement separate safety plans for the perpetrator of domestic violence, if the investigator is able to locate the perpetrator to implement a safety plan, and for the parent who is a victim of domestic violence as defined in s. 741.28. Reasonable efforts to locate a perpetrator include, but are not limited to, a diligent search pursuant to the same requirements as in s. 39.503. If the perpetrator of domestic violence is not the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of any child in the home and if the department does not intend to file a shelter petition or dependency petition that will assert allegations against the perpetrator as a parent of a child in the home the child, the child protective investigator shall seek issuance of an injunction authorized by s. 39.504 to implement a safety plan for the perpetrator and impose any other conditions to protect the child. The safety plan for the parent who is a victim of domestic violence may not be shared with the perpetrator. If any party to a safety plan fails to comply with the safety plan resulting in the child being unsafe, the department shall file a shelter petition. The child protective investigator shall collaborate

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with the community-based care lead agency in the development of

the safety plan as necessary to ensure that the safety plan is

specific, sufficient, feasible, and sustainable. The child protective investigator shall identify services necessary for the successful implementation of the safety plan. The child protective investigator and the community-based care lead agency shall mobilize service resources to assist all parties in complying with the safety plan. The community-based care lead agency shall prioritize safety plan services to families who have multiple risk factors, including, but not limited to, two or more of the following:

- (I) The parent or legal custodian is of young age;
- (II) The parent or legal custodian, or an adult currently living in or frequently visiting the home, has a history of substance abuse, mental illness, or domestic violence;
- (III) The parent or legal custodian, or an adult currently living in or frequently visiting the home, has been previously found to have physically or sexually abused a child;
- (IV) The parent or legal custodian or an adult currently living in or frequently visiting the home has been the subject of multiple allegations by reputable reports of abuse or neglect;
- (V) The child is physically or developmentally disabled; or
 - (VI) The child is 3 years of age or younger.
- c. The child protective investigator shall monitor the implementation of the plan to ensure the child's safety until

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the case is transferred to the lead agency at which time the lead agency shall monitor the implementation.

- investigation, a child is born into a family under investigation or a child moves into the home under investigation, the child protective investigator shall add the child to the investigation and assess the child's safety pursuant to subsection (7) and paragraph (9)(a).
- Section 4. Subsections (1) and (7) of section 39.302, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 39.302 Protective investigations of institutional child abuse, abandonment, or neglect.—
- (1) The department shall conduct a child protective investigation of each report of institutional child abuse, abandonment, or neglect. Upon receipt of a report that alleges that an employee or agent of the department, or any other entity or person covered by s. 39.01(32) or (48) s. 39.01(32) or (47), acting in an official capacity, has committed an act of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect, the department shall initiate a child protective investigation within the timeframe established under s. 39.201(5) and notify the appropriate state attorney, law enforcement agency, and licensing agency, which shall immediately conduct a joint investigation, unless independent investigations are more feasible. When conducting investigations or having face-to-face interviews with the child, investigation

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visits shall be unannounced unless it is determined by the department or its agent that unannounced visits threaten the safety of the child. If a facility is exempt from licensing, the department shall inform the owner or operator of the facility of the report. Each agency conducting a joint investigation is entitled to full access to the information gathered by the department in the course of the investigation. A protective investigation must include an interview with the child's parent or legal quardian. The department shall make a full written report to the state attorney within 3 working days after making the oral report. A criminal investigation shall be coordinated, whenever possible, with the child protective investigation of the department. Any interested person who has information regarding the offenses described in this subsection may forward a statement to the state attorney as to whether prosecution is warranted and appropriate. Within 15 days after the completion of the investigation, the state attorney shall report the findings to the department and shall include in the report a determination of whether or not prosecution is justified and appropriate in view of the circumstances of the specific case.

(7) When an investigation of institutional abuse, neglect, or abandonment is closed and a person is not identified as a caregiver responsible for the abuse, neglect, or abandonment alleged in the report, the fact that the person is named in some capacity in the report may not be used in any way to adversely

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affect the interests of that person. This prohibition applies to any use of the information in employment screening, licensing, child placement, adoption, or any other decisions by a private adoption agency or a state agency or its contracted providers.

- (a) However, if such a person is a licensee of the department and is named in any capacity in three or more reports within a 5-year period, the department may review those reports and determine whether the information contained in the reports is relevant for purposes of determining whether the person's license should be renewed or revoked. If the information is relevant to the decision to renew or revoke the license, the department may rely on the information contained in the report in making that decision.
- (b) Likewise, if a person is employed as a caregiver in a residential group home licensed pursuant to s. 409.175 and is named in any capacity in three or more reports within a 5-year period, all reports may be reviewed for the purposes of the employment screening required pursuant to s. 409.145(2)(e).
- Section 5. Paragraph (c) of subsection (8) of section 39.402, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 39.402 Placement in a shelter.-
- 372 (8)

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- (c) At the shelter hearing, the court shall:
- 1. Appoint a guardian ad litem to represent the best interest of the child, unless the court finds that such

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376 representation is unnecessary;

- 2. Inform the parents or legal custodians of their right to counsel to represent them at the shelter hearing and at each subsequent hearing or proceeding, and the right of the parents to appointed counsel, pursuant to the procedures set forth in s. 39.013; and
- 3. Give the parents or legal custodians an opportunity to be heard and to present evidence; and
- 4. Inquire of those present at the shelter hearing as to the identity and location of the legal father. In determining who the legal father of the child may be, the court shall inquire under oath of those present at the shelter hearing whether they have any of the following information:
- a. Whether the mother of the child was married at the probable time of conception of the child or at the time of birth of the child.
- b. Whether the mother was cohabiting with a male at the probable time of conception of the child.
- c. Whether the mother has received payments or promises of support with respect to the child or because of her pregnancy from a man who claims to be the father.
- d. Whether the mother has named any man as the father on the birth certificate of the child or in connection with applying for or receiving public assistance.
 - e. Whether any man has acknowledged or claimed paternity

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of the child in a jurisdiction in which the mother resided at
the time of or since conception of the child or in which the
child has resided or resides.

- f. Whether a man is named on the birth certificate of the child pursuant to s. 382.013(2).
- g. Whether a man has been determined by a court order to be the father of the child.
- h. Whether a man has been determined by an administrative proceeding to be the father of the child.
- Section 6. Subsections (1), (6), and (8) of section 39.503, Florida Statutes, are amended, subsection (9) is added to that section, and subsection (7) of that section is republished, to read:
- 39.503 Identity or location of parent unknown; special procedures.—
- (1) If the identity or location of a parent is unknown and a petition for dependency or shelter is filed, the court shall conduct <u>under oath</u> the following inquiry of the parent or legal custodian who is available, or, if no parent or legal custodian is available, of any relative or custodian of the child who is present at the hearing and likely to have <u>any of</u> the <u>following</u> information:
- (a) Whether the mother of the child was married at the probable time of conception of the child or at the time of birth of the child.

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(b) Whether the mother was cohabiting with a male at the probable time of conception of the child.

- (c) Whether the mother has received payments or promises of support with respect to the child or because of her pregnancy from a man who claims to be the father.
- (d) Whether the mother has named any man as the father on the birth certificate of the child or in connection with applying for or receiving public assistance.
- (e) Whether any man has acknowledged or claimed paternity of the child in a jurisdiction in which the mother resided at the time of or since conception of the child, or in which the child has resided or resides.
- (f) Whether a man is named on the birth certificate of the child pursuant to s. 382.013(2).
- (g) Whether a man has been determined by a court order to be the father of the child.
- (h) Whether a man has been determined by an administrative proceeding to be the father of the child.
- (6) The diligent search required by subsection (5) must include, at a minimum, inquiries of all relatives of the parent or prospective parent made known to the petitioner, inquiries of all offices of program areas of the department likely to have information about the parent or prospective parent, inquiries of other state and federal agencies likely to have information about the parent or prospective parent, inquiries of appropriate

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utility and postal providers, a thorough search of at least one electronic database specifically designed for locating persons, a search of the Florida Putative Father Registry, and inquiries of appropriate law enforcement agencies. Pursuant to s. 453 of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. s. 653(c)(4), the department, as the state agency administering Titles IV-B and IV-E of the act, shall be provided access to the federal and state parent locator service for diligent search activities.

- (7) Any agency contacted by a petitioner with a request for information pursuant to subsection (6) shall release the requested information to the petitioner without the necessity of a subpoena or court order.
- (8) If the inquiry and diligent search identifies a prospective parent, that person must be given the opportunity to become a party to the proceedings by completing a sworn affidavit of parenthood and filing it with the court or the department. A prospective parent who files a sworn affidavit of parenthood while the child is a dependent child but no later than at the time of or before prior to the adjudicatory hearing in any termination of parental rights proceeding for the child shall be considered a parent for all purposes under this section unless the other parent contests the determination of parenthood. If the prospective parent does not file a sworn affidavit of parenthood or if the other parent contests the determination of parenthood, the court may, after considering

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the best interest of the child, order scientific testing to determine the maternity or paternity of the child. The court shall assess the cost of the maternity or paternity determination as a cost of litigation. If the court finds the prospective parent to be a parent as a result of the scientific testing, the court shall enter a judgment of maternity or paternity, shall assess the cost of the scientific testing to the parent, and shall enter an amount of child support to be paid by the parent as determined under s. 61.30. If the known parent contests the recognition of the prospective parent as a parent, the prospective parent shall not be recognized as a parent until proceedings to determine maternity or paternity under chapter 742 have been concluded. However, the prospective parent shall continue to receive notice of hearings as a participant until pending results of the chapter 742 proceedings to determine maternity or paternity have been concluded. If the diligent search under subsection (5) fails to

- (9) If the diligent search under subsection (5) fails to identify and locate a prospective parent, the court shall so find and may proceed without further notice.
- Section 7. Section 39.504, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 39.504 Injunction pending disposition of petition; penalty.—
- (1) At any time after a protective investigation has been initiated pursuant to part III of this chapter, the court, upon

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the request of the department, a law enforcement officer, the state attorney, or other responsible person, or upon its own motion, may, if there is reasonable cause, issue an injunction to prevent any act of child abuse. Reasonable cause for the issuance of an injunction exists if there is evidence of child abuse or if there is a reasonable likelihood of such abuse occurring based upon a recent overt act or failure to act. If there is a pending dependency proceeding regarding the child whom the injunction is sought to protect, the judge hearing the dependency proceeding must also hear the injunction proceeding regarding the child.

(2) The petitioner seeking the injunction shall file a verified petition, or a petition along with an affidavit, setting forth the specific actions by the alleged offender from which the child must be protected and all remedies sought. Upon filing the petition, the court shall set a hearing to be held at the earliest possible time. Pending the hearing, the court may issue a temporary ex parte injunction, with verified pleadings or affidavits as evidence. The temporary ex parte injunction pending a hearing is effective for up to 15 days and the hearing must be held within that period unless continued for good cause shown, which may include obtaining service of process, in which case the temporary ex parte injunction shall be extended for the continuance period. The hearing may be held sooner if the alleged offender has received reasonable notice.

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- (3) Before the hearing, the alleged offender must be personally served with a copy of the petition, all other pleadings related to the petition, a notice of hearing, and, if one has been entered, the temporary injunction. If the petitioner is unable to locate the alleged offender for service after a diligent search pursuant to the same requirements as in s. 39.503 and the filing of an affidavit of diligent search, the court may enter the injunction based on the sworn petition and any affidavits. At the hearing, the court may base its determination on a sworn petition, testimony, or an affidavit and may hear all relevant and material evidence, including oral and written reports, to the extent of its probative value even though it would not be competent evidence at an adjudicatory hearing. Following the hearing, the court may enter a final injunction. The court may grant a continuance of the hearing at any time for good cause shown by any party. If a temporary injunction has been entered, it shall be continued during the continuance.
- (4) If an injunction is issued under this section, the primary purpose of the injunction must be to protect and promote the best interests of the child, taking the preservation of the child's immediate family into consideration.
- (a) The injunction applies to the alleged or actual offender in a case of child abuse or acts of domestic violence. The conditions of the injunction shall be determined by the

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court, which may include ordering the alleged or actual offender to:

1. Refrain from further abuse or acts of domestic violence.

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- 2. Participate in a specialized treatment program.
- 3. Limit contact or communication with the child victim, other children in the home, or any other child.
- 4. Refrain from contacting the child at home, school, work, or wherever the child may be found.
 - 5. Have limited or supervised visitation with the child.
 - 6. Vacate the home in which the child resides.
- 7. Comply with the terms of a safety plan implemented in the injunction pursuant to s. 39.301.
- (b) Upon proper pleading, the court may award the following relief in a temporary ex parte or final injunction:
- 1. Exclusive use and possession of the dwelling to the caregiver or exclusion of the alleged or actual offender from the residence of the caregiver.
- 2. Temporary support for the child or other family members.
- 3. The costs of medical, psychiatric, and psychological treatment for the child incurred due to the abuse, and similar costs for other family members.

This paragraph does not preclude an adult victim of domestic

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violence from seeking protection for himself or herself under s. 741.30.

- (c) The terms of the final injunction shall remain in effect until modified or dissolved by the court. The petitioner, respondent, or caregiver may move at any time to modify or dissolve the injunction. Notice of hearing on the motion to modify or dissolve the injunction must be provided to all parties, including the department. The injunction is valid and enforceable in all counties in the state.
- (5) Service of process on the respondent shall be carried out pursuant to s. 741.30. The department shall deliver a copy of any injunction issued pursuant to this section to the protected party or to a parent, caregiver, or individual acting in the place of a parent who is not the respondent. Law enforcement officers may exercise their arrest powers as provided in s. 901.15(6) to enforce the terms of the injunction.
- (6) Any person who fails to comply with an injunction issued pursuant to this section commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
- (7) The person against whom an injunction is entered under this section does not automatically become a party to a subsequent dependency action concerning the same child.
- Section 8. Paragraph (b) of subsection (7) of section 39.507, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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601	39.507 Adjudicatory hearings; orders of adjudication
602	(7)
603	(b) However, the court must determine whether each parent
604	or legal custodian identified in the case abused, abandoned, or
605	neglected the child $\underline{\text{or engaged in conduct that placed the child}}$
606	at substantial risk of imminent abuse, abandonment, or neglect
607	in a subsequent evidentiary hearing. If a second parent is
608	served and brought into the proceeding after the adjudication,
609	and an the evidentiary hearing for the second parent is
610	conducted subsequent to the adjudication of the child, the court
611	shall supplement the adjudicatory order, disposition order, and
612	the case plan, as necessary. The petitioner is not required to
613	prove actual harm or actual abuse by the second parent in order
614	for the court to make supplemental findings regarding the
615	conduct of the second parent. The court is not required to
616	conduct an evidentiary hearing for the second parent in order to
617	supplement the adjudicatory order, the disposition order, and
618	the case plan if the requirements of s. 39.506(3) or (5) are
619	satisfied. With the exception of proceedings pursuant to s.
620	39.811, the child's dependency status may not be retried or
621	readjudicated.
622	Section 9. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
623	39.5085, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
624	39.5085 Relative Caregiver Program.—
625	(2)(a) The Department of Children and Families shall

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establish, and operate, and implement the Relative Caregiver

Program pursuant to eligibility guidelines established in this

section as further implemented by rule of the department. The

Relative Caregiver Program shall, within the limits of available funding, provide financial assistance to:

- 1. Relatives who are within the fifth degree by blood or marriage to the parent or stepparent of a child and who are caring full-time for that dependent child in the role of substitute parent as a result of a court's determination of child abuse, neglect, or abandonment and subsequent placement with the relative under this chapter.
- 2. Relatives who are within the fifth degree by blood or marriage to the parent or stepparent of a child and who are caring full-time for that dependent child, and a dependent half-brother or half-sister of that dependent child, in the role of substitute parent as a result of a court's determination of child abuse, neglect, or abandonment and subsequent placement with the relative under this chapter.
- 3. Nonrelatives who are willing to assume custody and care of a dependent child in the role of substitute parent as a result of a court's determination of child abuse, neglect, or abandonment and subsequent placement with the nonrelative caregiver under this chapter. The court must find that a proposed placement under this subparagraph is in the best interest of the child.

651 The relative or nonrelative caregiver may not receive a 652 Relative Caregiver Program payment if the parent or stepparent 653 of the child resides in the home. However, a relative or 654 nonrelative may receive the Relative Caregiver Program payment for a minor parent who is in his or her care, as well as for the 655 656 minor parent's child, if both children have been adjudicated 657 dependent and meet all other eligibility requirements. If the 658 caregiver is currently receiving the payment, the Relative 659 Caregiver Program payment must be terminated no later than the 660 first of the following month after the parent or stepparent 661 moves into the home, allowing for 10-day notice of adverse 662 action. 663 664 The placement may be court-ordered temporary legal custody to 665 the relative or nonrelative under protective supervision of the 666 department pursuant to s. $39.521(1)(c)3. \frac{s.}{39.521(1)(b)3.}$, or 667 court-ordered placement in the home of a relative or nonrelative 668 as a permanency option under s. 39.6221 or s. 39.6231 or under 669 former s. 39.622 if the placement was made before July 1, 2006. 670 The Relative Caregiver Program shall offer financial assistance 671 to caregivers who would be unable to serve in that capacity 672 without the caregiver payment because of financial burden, thus exposing the child to the trauma of placement in a shelter or in 673 674 foster care.

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Section 10. Subsections (1), (2), (6), and (7) of section

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

39.521, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

- 39.521 Disposition hearings; powers of disposition.-
- (1) A disposition hearing shall be conducted by the court, if the court finds that the facts alleged in the petition for dependency were proven in the adjudicatory hearing, or if the parents or legal custodians have consented to the finding of dependency or admitted the allegations in the petition, have failed to appear for the arraignment hearing after proper notice, or have not been located despite a diligent search having been conducted.
- (a) A written case plan and a <u>family functioning</u>

 <u>assessment predisposition study</u> prepared by an authorized agent of the department must be <u>approved by filed with</u> the court. The department must file the case plan and the family functioning assessment with the court, serve a copy of the case plan on, served upon the parents of the child, and provide a copy of the case plan provided to the representative of the guardian ad litem program, if the program has been appointed, and provide a copy provided to all other parties:
- 1. Not less than 72 hours before the disposition hearing, if the disposition hearing occurs on or after the 60th day after the child was placed in out-of-home care. All such case plans must be approved by the court.
- 2. Not less than 72 hours before the case plan acceptance hearing, if the disposition hearing occurs before the 60th day

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after the date the child was placed in out-of-home care and a case plan has not been submitted pursuant to this paragraph, or if the court does not approve the case plan at the disposition hearing. The case plan acceptance hearing must occur the court must set a hearing within 30 days after the disposition hearing to review and approve the case plan.

- (b) The court may grant an exception to the requirement for a <u>family functioning assessment</u> predisposition study by separate order or within the judge's order of disposition upon finding that all the family and child information required by subsection (2) is available in other documents filed with the court.
- (c) (b) When any child is adjudicated by a court to be dependent, the court having jurisdiction of the child has the power by order to:
- 1. Require the parent and, when appropriate, the legal custodian and the child to participate in treatment and services identified as necessary. The court may require the person who has custody or who is requesting custody of the child to submit to a mental health or substance abuse disorder assessment or evaluation. The order may be made only upon good cause shown and pursuant to notice and procedural requirements provided under the Florida Rules of Juvenile Procedure. The mental health assessment or evaluation must be administered by a qualified professional as defined in s. 39.01, and the substance abuse

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assessment or evaluation must be administered by a qualified professional as defined in s. 397.311. The court may also require such person to participate in and comply with treatment and services identified as necessary, including, when appropriate and available, participation in and compliance with a mental health court program established under chapter 394 or a treatment-based drug court program established under s. 397.334. Adjudication of a child as dependent based upon evidence of harm as defined in s. 39.01(30)(g) demonstrates good cause, and the court shall require the parent whose actions caused the harm to submit to a substance abuse disorder assessment or evaluation and to participate and comply with treatment and services identified in the assessment or evaluation as being necessary. In addition to supervision by the department, the court, including the mental health court program or the treatment-based drug court program, may oversee the progress and compliance with treatment by a person who has custody or is requesting custody of the child. The court may impose appropriate available sanctions for noncompliance upon a person who has custody or is requesting custody of the child or make a finding of noncompliance for consideration in determining whether an alternative placement of the child is in the child's best interests. Any order entered under this subparagraph may be made only upon good cause shown. This subparagraph does not authorize placement of a child with a person seeking custody of the child,

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other than the child's parent or legal custodian, who requires
mental health or substance abuse disorder treatment.

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- 2. Require, if the court deems necessary, the parties to participate in dependency mediation.
- Require placement of the child either under the protective supervision of an authorized agent of the department in the home of one or both of the child's parents or in the home of a relative of the child or another adult approved by the court, or in the custody of the department. Protective supervision continues until the court terminates it or until the child reaches the age of 18, whichever date is first. Protective supervision shall be terminated by the court whenever the court determines that permanency has been achieved for the child, whether with a parent, another relative, or a legal custodian, and that protective supervision is no longer needed. The termination of supervision may be with or without retaining jurisdiction, at the court's discretion, and shall in either case be considered a permanency option for the child. The order terminating supervision by the department must set forth the powers of the custodian of the child and include the powers ordinarily granted to a guardian of the person of a minor unless otherwise specified. Upon the court's termination of supervision by the department, further judicial reviews are not required if permanency has been established for the child.
 - (d) (c) At the conclusion of the disposition hearing, the

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court shall schedule the initial judicial review hearing which must be held no later than 90 days after the date of the disposition hearing or after the date of the hearing at which the court approves the case plan, whichever occurs earlier, but in no event shall the review hearing be held later than 6 months after the date of the child's removal from the home.

(e) (d) The court shall, in its written order of disposition, include all of the following:

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- 1. The placement or custody of the child.
- 2. Special conditions of placement and visitation.
- 3. Evaluation, counseling, treatment activities, and other actions to be taken by the parties, if ordered.
- 4. The persons or entities responsible for supervising or monitoring services to the child and parent.
- 5. Continuation or discharge of the guardian ad litem, as appropriate.
- 6. The date, time, and location of the next scheduled review hearing, which must occur within the earlier of:
 - a. Ninety days after the disposition hearing;
 - b. Ninety days after the court accepts the case plan;
- c. Six months after the date of the last review hearing;
 or
- d. Six months after the date of the child's removal from his or her home, if no review hearing has been held since the child's removal from the home.

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- 7. If the child is in an out-of-home placement, child support to be paid by the parents, or the guardian of the child's estate if possessed of assets which under law may be disbursed for the care, support, and maintenance of the child. The court may exercise jurisdiction over all child support matters, shall adjudicate the financial obligation, including health insurance, of the child's parents or guardian, and shall enforce the financial obligation as provided in chapter 61. The state's child support enforcement agency shall enforce child support orders under this section in the same manner as child support orders under chapter 61. Placement of the child shall not be contingent upon issuance of a support order.
- 8.a. If the court does not commit the child to the temporary legal custody of an adult relative, legal custodian, or other adult approved by the court, the disposition order shall include the reasons for such a decision and shall include a determination as to whether diligent efforts were made by the department to locate an adult relative, legal custodian, or other adult willing to care for the child in order to present that placement option to the court instead of placement with the department.
- b. If no suitable relative is found and the child is placed with the department or a legal custodian or other adult approved by the court, both the department and the court shall consider transferring temporary legal custody to an adult

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relative approved by the court at a later date, but neither the department nor the court is obligated to so place the child if it is in the child's best interest to remain in the current placement.

- For the purposes of this section, "diligent efforts to locate an adult relative" means a search similar to the diligent search for a parent, but without the continuing obligation to search after an initial adequate search is completed.
- 9. Other requirements necessary to protect the health, safety, and well-being of the child, to preserve the stability of the child's educational placement, and to promote family preservation or reunification whenever possible.
- (f)(e) If the court finds that an in-home safety plan prepared or approved by the department the prevention or reunification efforts of the department will allow the child to remain safely at home or that conditions for return have been met and an in-home safety plan prepared or approved by the department will allow the child to be safely returned to the home, the court shall allow the child to remain in or return to the home after making a specific finding of fact that the reasons for removal have been remedied to the extent that the child's safety, well-being, and physical, mental, and emotional health will not be endangered.
 - (g) (f) If the court places the child in an out-of-home

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placement, the disposition order must include a written determination that the child cannot safely remain at home with reunification or family preservation services and that removal of the child is necessary to protect the child. If the child is removed before the disposition hearing, the order must also include a written determination as to whether, after removal, the department made a reasonable effort to reunify the parent and child. Reasonable efforts to reunify are not required if the court finds that any of the acts listed in s. 39.806(1)(f)-(1) have occurred. The department has the burden of demonstrating that it made reasonable efforts.

- 1. For the purposes of this paragraph, the term "reasonable effort" means the exercise of reasonable diligence and care by the department to provide the services ordered by the court or delineated in the case plan.
- 2. In support of its determination as to whether reasonable efforts have been made, the court shall:
- a. Enter written findings as to whether prevention or reunification efforts were indicated.
- b. If prevention or reunification efforts were indicated, include a brief written description of what appropriate and available prevention and reunification efforts were made.
- c. Indicate in writing why further efforts could or could not have prevented or shortened the separation of the parent and child.

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3. A court may find that the department made a reasonable effort to prevent or eliminate the need for removal if:

a. The first contact of the department with the family occurs during an emergency;

- b. The appraisal by the department of the home situation indicates a substantial and immediate danger to the child's safety or physical, mental, or emotional health which cannot be mitigated by the provision of preventive services;
- c. The child cannot safely remain at home, because there are no preventive services that can ensure the health and safety of the child or, even with appropriate and available services being provided, the health and safety of the child cannot be ensured; or
- d. The parent is alleged to have committed any of the acts listed as grounds for expedited termination of parental rights under s. 39.806(1)(f)-(1).
- 4. A reasonable effort by the department for reunification has been made if the appraisal of the home situation by the department indicates that the severity of the conditions of dependency is such that reunification efforts are inappropriate. The department has the burden of demonstrating to the court that reunification efforts were inappropriate.
- 5. If the court finds that the prevention or reunification effort of the department would not have permitted the child to remain safely at home, the court may commit the child to the

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temporary legal custody of the department or take any other action authorized by this chapter.

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- (2) The <u>family functioning assessment</u> predisposition study must provide the court with the following documented information:
- (a) Evidence of maltreatment and the circumstances accompanying the maltreatment.
- (b) Identification of all danger threats active in the home.
 - (c) An assessment of the adult functioning of the parents.
- (d) An assessment of general parenting practices and the parent's disciplinary approach and behavior management methods.
- (e) An assessment of the parent's behavioral, emotional, and cognitive protective capacities.
 - (f) An assessment of child functioning.
- (g) A safety analysis describing the capacity for an inhome safety plan to control the conditions that result in the child being unsafe and the specific actions necessary to keep the child safe.
- (h) Identification of the conditions for return which would allow the child to be placed safely back into the home with an in-home safety plan and any safety management services necessary to ensure the child's safety.
- (a) The capacity and disposition of the parents to provide the child with food, clothing, medical care, or other remedial

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926 care recognized and permitted under the laws of this state in 927 lieu of medical care, and other material needs. 928 (b) The length of time the child has lived in a stable, 929 satisfactory environment and the desirability of maintaining 930 continuity. 931 (c) The mental and physical health of the parents. 932 (d) The home, school, and community record of the child. (i) (e) The reasonable preference of the child, if the 933 court deems the child to be of sufficient intelligence, 934 935 understanding, and experience to express a preference. 936 (f) Evidence of domestic violence or child abuse. 937 (g) An assessment defining the dangers and risks of 938 returning the child home, including a description of the changes 939 in and resolutions to the initial risks. (h) A description of what risks are still present and what 940 941 resources are available and will be provided for the protection 942 and safety of the child. 943 (i) A description of the benefits of returning the child 944 home. 945 (j) A description of all unresolved issues. 946 (j) (k) Child welfare A Florida Abuse Hotline Information 947 System (FAHIS) history and criminal records check for all 948 caregivers, family members, and individuals residing within the 949 household from which the child was removed from the State 950 Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS).

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 $\underline{\text{(k)}}$ The complete report and recommendation of the child protection team of the Department of Health or, if no report exists, a statement reflecting that no report has been made.

(1) (m) All opinions or recommendations from other professionals or agencies that provide evaluative, social, reunification, or other services to the parent and child.

- <u>(m) (n)</u> A listing of appropriate and available <u>safety</u> <u>management</u> <u>prevention and reunification</u> services for the parent and child to prevent the removal of the child from the home or to reunify the child with the parent after removal, <u>including</u> the availability of family preservation services and an explanation of the following:
 - 1. If the services were or were not provided.
- 2. If the services were provided, the outcome of the services.
- 3. If the services were not provided, why they were not provided.
- 4. If the services are currently being provided and if they need to be continued.
- (o) A listing of other prevention and reunification services that were available but determined to be inappropriate and why.
 - (p) Whether dependency mediation was provided.
- $\underline{\text{(n)}}$ If the child has been removed from the home and there is a parent who may be considered for custody pursuant to

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this section, a recommendation as to whether placement of the child with that parent would be detrimental to the child.

- (o) (r) If the child has been removed from the home and will be remaining with a relative, parent, or other adult approved by the court, a home study report concerning the proposed placement shall be provided to the court included in the predisposition report. Before recommending to the court any out-of-home placement for a child other than placement in a licensed shelter or foster home, the department shall conduct a study of the home of the proposed legal custodians, which must include, at a minimum:
- 1. An interview with the proposed legal custodians to assess their ongoing commitment and ability to care for the child.
- 2. Records checks through the State Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS), and local and statewide criminal and juvenile records checks through the Department of Law Enforcement, on all household members 12 years of age or older. In addition, the fingerprints of any household members who are 18 years of age or older may be submitted to the Department of Law Enforcement for processing and forwarding to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for state and national criminal history information. The department has the discretion to request State Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) and local, statewide, and national criminal history

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checks and fingerprinting of any other visitor to the home who is made known to the department. Out-of-state criminal records checks must be initiated for any individual who has resided in a state other than Florida if that state's laws allow the release of these records. The out-of-state criminal records must be filed with the court within 5 days after receipt by the department or its agent.

- 3. An assessment of the physical environment of the home.
- 4. A determination of the financial security of the proposed legal custodians.

- 5. A determination of suitable child care arrangements if the proposed legal custodians are employed outside of the home.
- 6. Documentation of counseling and information provided to the proposed legal custodians regarding the dependency process and possible outcomes.
- 7. Documentation that information regarding support services available in the community has been provided to the proposed legal custodians.
- 8. The reasonable preference of the child, if the court deems the child to be of sufficient intelligence, understanding, and experience to express a preference.

The department may not place the child or continue the placement of the child in a home under shelter or postdisposition placement if the results of the home study are unfavorable,

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unless the court finds that this placement is in the child's best interest.

- (p)(s) If the child has been removed from the home, a determination of the amount of child support each parent will be required to pay pursuant to s. 61.30.
- (t) If placement of the child with anyone other than the child's parent is being considered, the predisposition study shall include the designation of a specific length of time as to when custody by the parent will be reconsidered.

Any other relevant and material evidence, including other written or oral reports, may be received by the court in its effort to determine the action to be taken with regard to the child and may be relied upon to the extent of its probative value, even though not competent in an adjudicatory hearing. Except as otherwise specifically provided, nothing in this section prohibits the publication of proceedings in a hearing.

- (6) With respect to a child who is the subject in proceedings under this chapter, the court may issue to the department an order to show cause why it should not return the child to the custody of the parents upon the presentation of evidence that the conditions for return of the child have been met expiration of the case plan, or sooner if the parents have substantially complied with the case plan.
 - (7) The court may enter an order ending its jurisdiction

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over a child when a child has been returned to the parents, provided the court shall not terminate its jurisdiction or the department's supervision over the child until 6 months after the child's return. The department shall supervise the placement of the child after reunification for at least 6 months with each parent or legal custodian from whom the child was removed. The court shall determine whether its jurisdiction should be continued or terminated in such a case based on a report of the department or agency or the child's guardian ad litem, and any other relevant factors; if its jurisdiction is to be terminated, the court shall enter an order to that effect.

Section 11. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 39.522, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

- 39.522 Postdisposition change of custody.—The court may change the temporary legal custody or the conditions of protective supervision at a postdisposition hearing, without the necessity of another adjudicatory hearing.
- (2) In cases where the issue before the court is whether a child should be reunited with a parent, the court shall review the conditions for return and determine whether the circumstances that caused the out-of-home placement and issues subsequently identified have been remedied parent has substantially complied with the terms of the case plan to the extent that the return of the child to the home with an in-home safety plan prepared or approved by the department will not be

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detrimental to the child's safety, well-being, and physical, mental, and emotional health of the child is not endangered by the return of the child to the home.

- child who is placed in the custody of a parent should be reunited with the other parent upon a finding that the circumstances that caused the out-of-home placement and issues subsequently identified have been remedied to the extent that the return of the child to the home of the other parent with an in-home safety plan prepared or approved by the department will not be detrimental to the child of substantial compliance with the terms of the case plan, the standard shall be that the safety, well-being, and physical, mental, and emotional health of the child would not be endangered by reunification and that reunification would be in the best interest of the child.
- Section 12. Subsection (1) of section 39.6011, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 39.6011 Case plan development.

 (1) The department shall prepare a draft of the case plan for each child receiving services under this chapter. A parent of a child may not be threatened or coerced with the loss of custody or parental rights for failing to admit in the case plan of abusing, neglecting, or abandoning a child. Participating in the development of a case plan is not an admission to any allegation of abuse, abandonment, or neglect, and it is not a

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consent to a finding of dependency or termination of parental rights. The case plan shall be developed subject to the following requirements:

- (a) The case plan must be developed in a face-to-face conference with the parent of the child, any court-appointed guardian ad litem, and, if appropriate, the child and the temporary custodian of the child.
- (b) Notwithstanding s. 39.202, the department may discuss confidential information during the case planning conference in the presence of individuals who participate in the conference.

 All individuals who participate in the conference shall maintain the confidentiality of all information shared during the case planning conference.
- <u>(c) (b)</u> The parent may receive assistance from any person or social service agency in preparing the case plan. The social service agency, the department, and the court, when applicable, shall inform the parent of the right to receive such assistance, including the right to assistance of counsel.
- (d) (e) If a parent is unwilling or unable to participate in developing a case plan, the department shall document that unwillingness or inability to participate. The documentation must be provided in writing to the parent when available for the court record, and the department shall prepare a case plan conforming as nearly as possible with the requirements set forth in this section. The unwillingness or inability of the parent to

participate in developing a case plan does not preclude the filing of a petition for dependency or for termination of parental rights. The parent, if available, must be provided a copy of the case plan and be advised that he or she may, at any time before the filing of a petition for termination of parental rights, enter into a case plan and that he or she may request judicial review of any provision of the case plan with which he or she disagrees at any court hearing set for the child.

Section 13. Subsection (1) of section 39.6012, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

39.6012 Case plan tasks; services.-

- (1) The services to be provided to the parent and the tasks that must be completed are subject to the following:
- designed to improve the conditions in the home and aid in maintaining the child in the home, facilitate the child's safe return to the home, ensure proper care of the child, or facilitate the child's permanent placement. The services offered must be the least intrusive possible into the life of the parent and child, must focus on clearly defined objectives, and must provide the most efficient path to quick reunification or permanent placement given the circumstances of the case and the child's need for safe and proper care.
- (b) The case plan must describe each of the tasks with which the parent must comply and the services to be provided to

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the parent, specifically addressing the identified problem, including:

1. The type of services or treatment.

- 2. The date the department will provide each service or referral for the service if the service is being provided by the department or its agent.
 - 3. The date by which the parent must complete each task.
- 4. The frequency of services or treatment provided. The frequency of the delivery of services or treatment provided shall be determined by the professionals providing the services or treatment on a case-by-case basis and adjusted according to their best professional judgment.
 - 5. The location of the delivery of the services.
- 6. The staff of the department or service provider accountable for the services or treatment.
- 7. A description of the measurable objectives, including the timeframes specified for achieving the objectives of the case plan and addressing the identified problem.
- (c) If there is evidence of harm as defined in s.

 39.01(30)(g), the case plan must include as a required task for the parent whose actions caused the harm that the parent submit to a substance abuse disorder assessment or evaluation and participate and comply with treatment and services identified in the assessment or evaluation as being necessary.
 - Section 14. Subsection (7) is added to section 39.6221,

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LT / 6	Florida Statutes, to read:
L177	39.6221 Permanent guardianship of a dependent child
L178	(7) The requirements of s. 61.13001 do not apply to
L179	permanent guardianships established under this section.
L180	Section 15. Paragraph (h) is added to subsection (1) of
L181	section 39.701, Florida Statutes, to read:
L182	39.701 Judicial review.—
L183	(1) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—
L184	(h) If a child is born into a family that is under the
L185	court's jurisdiction or a child moves into a home that is under
L186	the court's jurisdiction, the department shall assess the
L187	child's safety and provide notice to the court.
L188	1. The department shall complete an assessment to
L189	determine how the addition of a child will impact family
L190	functioning. The assessment must be completed at least 30 days
L191	before a child is expected to be born or to move into a home, or
L192	within 72 hours after the department learns of the pregnancy or
L193	addition if the child is expected to be born or to move into the
L194	home in less than 30 days. The assessment shall be filed with
L195	the court.
L196	2. Once a child is born into a family or a child moves
L197	into the home, the department shall complete a progress update
L198	and file it with the court.
L199	3. The court has the discretion to hold a hearing on the
1200	progress undate filed by the department

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The department shall adopt rules to implement this

1203	Section 16. Subsection (3) of section 39.801, Florida
1204	Statutes, is amended to read:
1205	39.801 Procedures and jurisdiction; notice; service of
1206	process
1207	(3) Before the court may terminate parental rights, in
1208	addition to the other requirements set forth in this part, the
1209	following requirements must be met:
1210	(a) Notice of the date, time, and place of the advisory
1211	hearing for the petition to terminate parental rights and a copy
1212	of the petition must be personally served upon the following
1213	persons, specifically notifying them that a petition has been

1. The parents of the child.

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subsection.

filed:

- 2. The legal custodians of the child.
- 3. If the parents who would be entitled to notice are dead or unknown, a living relative of the child, unless upon diligent search and inquiry no such relative can be found.
 - 4. Any person who has physical custody of the child.
- 5. Any grandparent entitled to priority for adoption under s. 63.0425.
- 6. Any prospective parent who has been identified under s.
 39.503 or s. 39.803, unless a court order has been entered
 pursuant to s. 39.503(4) or (9) or s. 39.803(4) or (9) which

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indicates no further notice is required. Except as otherwise provided in this section, if there is not a legal father, notice of the petition for termination of parental rights must be provided to any known prospective father who is identified under oath before the court or who is identified by a diligent search of the Florida Putative Father Registry. Service of the notice of the petition for termination of parental rights may not be required if the prospective father executes an affidavit of nonpaternity or a consent to termination of his parental rights which is accepted by the court after notice and opportunity to be heard by all parties to address the best interests of the child in accepting such affidavit.

7. The guardian ad litem for the child or the representative of the guardian ad litem program, if the program has been appointed.

The document containing the notice to respond or appear must contain, in type at least as large as the type in the balance of the document, the following or substantially similar language:
"FAILURE TO PERSONALLY APPEAR AT THIS ADVISORY HEARING
CONSTITUTES CONSENT TO THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS OF THIS CHILD (OR CHILDREN). IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR ON THE DATE AND TIME SPECIFIED, YOU MAY LOSE ALL LEGAL RIGHTS AS A PARENT TO THE CHILD OR CHILDREN NAMED IN THE PETITION ATTACHED TO THIS NOTICE."

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(b) If a party required to be served with notice as prescribed in paragraph (a) cannot be served, notice of hearings must be given as prescribed by the rules of civil procedure, and service of process must be made as specified by law or civil actions.

- (c) Notice as prescribed by this section may be waived, in the discretion of the judge, with regard to any person to whom notice must be given under this subsection if the person executes, before two witnesses and a notary public or other officer authorized to take acknowledgments, a written surrender of the child to a licensed child-placing agency or the department.
- (d) If the person served with notice under this section fails to personally appear at the advisory hearing, the failure to personally appear shall constitute consent for termination of parental rights by the person given notice. If a parent appears for the advisory hearing and the court orders that parent to personally appear at the adjudicatory hearing for the petition for termination of parental rights, stating the date, time, and location of said hearing, then failure of that parent to personally appear at the adjudicatory hearing shall constitute consent for termination of parental rights.

Section 17. Section 39.803, Florida Statutes, is amended, to read:

39.803 Identity or location of parent unknown after filing

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1276 of termination of parental rights petition; special procedures.

- (1) If the identity or location of a parent is unknown and a petition for termination of parental rights is filed, the court shall conduct <u>under oath</u> the following inquiry of the parent who is available, or, if no parent is available, of any relative, caregiver, or legal custodian of the child who is present at the hearing and likely to have the information:
- (a) Whether the mother of the child was married at the probable time of conception of the child or at the time of birth of the child.
- (b) Whether the mother was cohabiting with a male at the probable time of conception of the child.
- (c) Whether the mother has received payments or promises of support with respect to the child or because of her pregnancy from a man who claims to be the father.
- (d) Whether the mother has named any man as the father on the birth certificate of the child or in connection with applying for or receiving public assistance.
- (e) Whether any man has acknowledged or claimed paternity of the child in a jurisdiction in which the mother resided at the time of or since conception of the child, or in which the child has resided or resides.
- (f) Whether a man is named on the birth certificate of the child pursuant to s. 382.013(2).
 - (g) Whether a man has been determined by a court order to

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1301 be the father of the child.

(h) Whether a man has been determined by an administrative proceeding to be the father of the child.

- (2) The information required in subsection (1) may be supplied to the court or the department in the form of a sworn affidavit by a person having personal knowledge of the facts.
- (3) If the inquiry under subsection (1) identifies any person as a parent or prospective parent, the court shall require notice of the hearing to be provided to that person.
- (4) If the inquiry under subsection (1) fails to identify any person as a parent or prospective parent, the court shall so find and may proceed without further notice.
- (5) If the inquiry under subsection (1) identifies a parent or prospective parent, and that person's location is unknown, the court shall direct the petitioner to conduct a diligent search for that person before scheduling an adjudicatory hearing regarding the petition for termination of parental rights to the child unless the court finds that the best interest of the child requires proceeding without actual notice to the person whose location is unknown.
- (6) The diligent search required by subsection (5) must include, at a minimum, inquiries of all known relatives of the parent or prospective parent, inquiries of all offices of program areas of the department likely to have information about the parent or prospective parent, inquiries of other state and

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federal agencies likely to have information about the parent or prospective parent, inquiries of appropriate utility and postal providers, a thorough search of at least one electronic database specifically designed for locating persons, a search of the Florida Putative Father Registry, and inquiries of appropriate law enforcement agencies. Pursuant to s. 453 of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. s. 653(c)(4), the department, as the state agency administering Titles IV-B and IV-E of the act, shall be provided access to the federal and state parent locator service for diligent search activities.

- (7) Any agency contacted by petitioner with a request for information pursuant to subsection (6) shall release the requested information to the petitioner without the necessity of a subpoena or court order.
- (8) If the inquiry and diligent search identifies a prospective parent, that person must be given the opportunity to become a party to the proceedings by completing a sworn affidavit of parenthood and filing it with the court or the department. A prospective parent who files a sworn affidavit of parenthood while the child is a dependent child but no later than at the time of or before prior to the adjudicatory hearing in the termination of parental rights proceeding for the child shall be considered a parent for all purposes under this section. If the prospective parent does not file a sworn affidavit of parenthood or if the other parent contests the

determination of parenthood, the court may, after considering the best interests of the child, order scientific testing to determine the maternity or paternity of the child. The court shall assess the cost of the paternity determination as a cost of litigation. If the court finds the prospective parent to be a parent as a result of the scientific testing, the court shall enter a judgment of maternity or paternity, shall assess the cost of the scientific testing to the parent, and shall enter an amount of child support to be paid by the parent as determined under s. 61.30. If the known parent contests the recognition of the prospective parent as a parent, the prospective parent shall not be recognized as a parent until proceedings to establish paternity have been concluded. However, the prospective parent shall continue to receive notice of hearings as a participant until proceedings to establish paternity have been concluded.

(9) If the diligent search under subsection (5) fails to identify and locate a prospective parent, the court shall so find and may proceed without further notice.

Section 18. Paragraph (1) of subsection (1) of section 39.806, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsections (2) and (3) are republished, to read:

- 39.806 Grounds for termination of parental rights.-
- (1) Grounds for the termination of parental rights may be established under any of the following circumstances:
 - (1) On three or more occasions the child or another child

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of the parent or parents has been placed in out-of-home care pursuant to this chapter or the law of any state, territory, or jurisdiction of the United States which is substantially similar to this chapter, and the conditions that led to the child's out-of-home placement were caused by the parent or parents.

- (2) Reasonable efforts to preserve and reunify families are not required if a court of competent jurisdiction has determined that any of the events described in paragraphs (1)(b)-(d) or paragraphs (1)(f)-(m) have occurred.
- (3) If a petition for termination of parental rights is filed under subsection (1), a separate petition for dependency need not be filed and the department need not offer the parents a case plan having a goal of reunification, but may instead file with the court a case plan having a goal of termination of parental rights to allow continuation of services until the termination is granted or until further orders of the court are issued.

Section 19. Subsection (6) of section 39.811, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 39.811 Powers of disposition; order of disposition.-
- (6) The parental rights of one parent may be severed without severing the parental rights of the other parent only under the following circumstances:
 - (a) If the child has only one surviving parent;
 - (b) If the identity of a prospective parent has been

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1401 established as unknown after sworn testimony;

- (c) If the parent whose rights are being terminated became a parent through a single-parent adoption;
- (d) If the protection of the child demands termination of the rights of a single parent; or
- (e) If the parent whose rights are being terminated meets any of the criteria specified in s. 39.806(1) (c), (d), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m), or (n) and (f)-(m).

Section 20. Paragraph (g) of subsection (4) of section 395.3025, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (8) of that section is republished, to read:

395.3025 Patient and personnel records; copies; examination.—

- (4) Patient records are confidential and must not be disclosed without the consent of the patient or his or her legal representative, but appropriate disclosure may be made without such consent to:
- (g) The Department of Children and Families, or its agent, or its contracted entity, for the purpose of investigations of or services for cases of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of children or vulnerable adults.
- (8) Patient records at hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers are exempt from disclosure under s. 119.07(1), except as provided by subsections (1)-(5).
 - Section 21. Subsections (2) and (6) of section 402.40,

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1426 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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- 402.40 Child welfare training and certification.-
- (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:
- (a) "Child welfare certification" means a professional credential awarded by a department-approved third-party credentialing entity to individuals demonstrating core competency in any child welfare practice area.
 - (b) "Child welfare services" means any intake, protective investigations, preprotective services, protective services, foster care, shelter and group care, and adoption and related services program, including supportive services and supervision provided to children who are alleged to have been abused, abandoned, or neglected or who are at risk of becoming, are alleged to be, or have been found dependent pursuant to chapter 39.
 - (c) "Child welfare trainer" means any person providing training for the purposes of child welfare professionals earning certification.
 - (d) (e) "Core competency" means the minimum knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to carry out work responsibilities.
 - (e) (d) "Person providing child welfare services" means a person who has a responsibility for supervisory, direct care, or support-related work in the provision of child welfare services pursuant to chapter 39.

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 $\underline{\text{(f)}}$ "Preservice curriculum" means the minimum statewide training content based upon the core competencies which is made available to all persons providing child welfare services.

- (g)(f) "Third-party credentialing entity" means a department-approved nonprofit organization that has met nationally recognized standards for developing and administering professional certification programs.
- (6) ADOPTION OF RULES.—The Department of Children and Families shall adopt rules necessary to carry out the provisions of this section, including the requirements for child welfare trainers.

Section 22. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section 456.057, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

456.057 Ownership and control of patient records; report or copies of records to be furnished; disclosure of information.—

(7) (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section and in s. 440.13(4)(c), such records may not be furnished to, and the medical condition of a patient may not be discussed with, any person other than the patient, the patient's legal representative, or other health care practitioners and providers involved in the patient's care or treatment, except upon written authorization from the patient. However, such records may be furnished without written authorization under the following circumstances:

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1. To any person, firm, or corporation that has procured or furnished such care or treatment with the patient's consent.

- 2. When compulsory physical examination is made pursuant to Rule 1.360, Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, in which case copies of the medical records shall be furnished to both the defendant and the plaintiff.
- 3. In any civil or criminal action, unless otherwise prohibited by law, upon the issuance of a subpoena from a court of competent jurisdiction and proper notice to the patient or the patient's legal representative by the party seeking such records.
- 4. For statistical and scientific research, provided the information is abstracted in such a way as to protect the identity of the patient or provided written permission is received from the patient or the patient's legal representative.
- 5. To a regional poison control center for purposes of treating a poison episode under evaluation, case management of poison cases, or compliance with data collection and reporting requirements of s. 395.1027 and the professional organization that certifies poison control centers in accordance with federal law.
- 6. To the Department of Children and Families, its agent, or its contracted entity, for the purpose of investigations of or services for cases of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of children or vulnerable adults.

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1501	Section 23. <u>Section 409.141</u> , Florida Statutes, is
1502	repealed.
1503	Section 24. Section 409.1677, Florida Statutes, is
1504	repealed.
1505	Section 25. Subsection (1) of section 39.524, Florida
1506	Statutes, is amended to read:
1507	39.524 Safe-harbor placement.—
1508	(1) Except as provided in s. 39.407 or s. 985.801, a
1509	dependent child 6 years of age or older who has been found to be
1510	a victim of sexual exploitation as defined in $\underline{\text{s. 39.01}}$ $\underline{\text{s.}}$
1511	39.01(70)(g) must be assessed for placement in a safe house or
1512	safe foster home as provided in s. 409.1678 using the initial
1513	screening and assessment instruments provided in s. $409.1754(1)$.
1514	If such placement is determined to be appropriate for the child
1515	as a result of this assessment, the child may be placed in a
1516	safe house or safe foster home, if one is available. However,
1517	the child may be placed in another setting, if the other setting
1518	is more appropriate to the child's needs or if a safe house or
1519	safe foster home is unavailable, as long as the child's
1520	behaviors are managed so as not to endanger other children
1521	served in that setting.
1522	Section 26. Paragraph (p) of subsection (4) of section
1523	394.495, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
1524	394.495 Child and adolescent mental health system of care;
1525	programs and services.—

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1526 (4) The array of services may include, but is not limited to:

- (p) Trauma-informed services for children who have suffered sexual exploitation as defined in $\underline{s. 39.01} \ \underline{s.} 39.01 \ (70) \ (g)$.
- Section 27. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) and paragraphs

 (a) and (b) of subsection (6) of section 409.1678, Florida

 Statutes, are amended to read:
 - 409.1678 Specialized residential options for children who are victims of sexual exploitation.—
 - (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:
 - (c) "Sexually exploited child" means a child who has suffered sexual exploitation as defined in $\underline{s.~39.01}~\underline{s.}$ 39.01(70)(g) and is ineligible for relief and benefits under the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act, 22 U.S.C. ss. 7101 et seq.
 - (6) LOCATION INFORMATION. -

 (a) Information about the location of a safe house, safe foster home, or other residential facility serving victims of sexual exploitation, as defined in $\underline{s.\ 39.01}\ \underline{s.\ 39.01}\ (70)\ (g)$, which is held by an agency, as defined in s. 119.011, is confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This exemption applies to such confidential and exempt information held by an agency before, on, or after the effective date of the exemption.

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(b) Information about the location of a safe house, safe
foster home, or other residential facility serving victims of
sexual exploitation, as defined in $\underline{s. 39.01} \ \underline{s. 39.01(70)(g)}$, may
be provided to an agency, as defined in s. 119.011, as necessary
to maintain health and safety standards and to address emergency
situations in the safe house, safe foster home, or other
residential facility.

Section 28. Subsection (5) of section 960.065, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

960.065 Eligibility for awards.-

- (5) A person is not ineligible for an award pursuant to paragraph (2)(a), paragraph (2)(b), or paragraph (2)(c) if that person is a victim of sexual exploitation of a child as defined in s. $39.01 \frac{\text{s.}}{39.01(70)(\text{g})}$.
- 1565 Section 29. Section 409.1679, Florida Statutes, is amended 1566 to read:
 - 409.1679 Additional requirements; reimbursement methodology.—
 - (1) Each program established under $\underline{s.~409.1676}~\underline{ss.}$ $\underline{409.1676}~and~409.1677$ must meet the following expectations, which must be included in its contracts with the department or lead agency:
 - (a) No more than 10 percent of the children served may move from one living environment to another, unless the child is returned to family members or is moved, in accordance with the

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treatment plan, to a less-restrictive setting. Each child must have a comprehensive transitional plan that identifies the child's living arrangement upon leaving the program and specific steps and services that are being provided to prepare for that arrangement. Specific expectations as to the time period necessary for the achievement of these permanency goals must be included in the contract.

- (b) Each child must receive a full academic year of appropriate educational instruction. No more than 10 percent of the children may be in more than one academic setting in an academic year, unless the child is being moved, in accordance with an educational plan, to a less-restrictive setting. Each child must demonstrate academic progress and must be performing at grade level or at a level commensurate with a valid academic assessment.
- (c) Siblings must be kept together in the same living environment 100 percent of the time, unless that is determined by the provider not to be in the children's best interest. When siblings are separated in placement, the decision must be reviewed and approved by the court within 30 days.
- (d) The program must experience a caregiver turnover rate and an incidence of child runaway episodes which are at least 50 percent below the rates experienced in the rest of the state.
- (e) In addition to providing a comprehensive assessment, the program must provide, 100 percent of the time, any or all of

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the following services that are indicated through the assessment: residential care; transportation; behavioral health services; recreational activities; clothing, supplies, and miscellaneous expenses associated with caring for these children; necessary arrangements for or provision of educational services; and necessary and appropriate health and dental care.

- (f) The children who are served in this program must be satisfied with the services and living environment.
 - (g) The caregivers must be satisfied with the program.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 409.141, The Department of Children and Families shall fairly and reasonably reimburse the programs established under s. 409.1676 ss. 409.1676 and 409.1677 based on a prospective per diem rate, which must be specified annually in the General Appropriations Act. Funding for these programs shall be made available from resources appropriated and identified in the General Appropriations Act.

Section 30. Subsection (11) of section 1002.3305, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.3305 College-Preparatory Boarding Academy Pilot Program for at-risk students.—

(11) STUDENT HOUSING.—Notwithstanding <u>s. 409.176</u> ss. $\frac{409.1677(3)}{(d)}$ and $\frac{409.176}{(d)}$ or any other provision of law, an operator may house and educate dependent, at-risk youth in its residential school for the purpose of facilitating the mission

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1626 of the program and encouraging innovative practices.

Section 31. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 456.057, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (2) of section 483.181, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

- 483.181 Acceptance, collection, identification, and examination of specimens.—
- (2) The results of a test must be reported directly to the licensed practitioner or other authorized person who requested it, and appropriate disclosure may be made by the clinical laboratory without a patient's consent to other health care practitioners and providers involved in the care or treatment of the patient as specified in s. 456.057(7)(a). The report must include the name and address of the clinical laboratory in which the test was actually performed, unless the test was performed in a hospital laboratory and the report becomes an integral part of the hospital record.
 - Section 32. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.

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