

House Bill 1209

By: Representatives Clark of the 100<sup>th</sup>, Reeves of the 99<sup>th</sup>, Kelley of the 16<sup>th</sup>, Jones of the 25<sup>th</sup>, Daniel of the 117<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 11 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to dependency proceedings, so as to enact "Ethan's Law"; to provide limitations on  
3 ordering a child to be sent to a reunification program; to provide for related matters; to repeal  
4 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 This Act shall be known and may be cited as "Ethan's Law."

8 **SECTION 2.**

9 Article 3 of Chapter 11 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
10 dependency proceedings, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

11 "15-11-202.1.

12 Except as provided by any other provision in this chapter, a court shall not order family  
13 reunification treatments, programs, or services, including, but not limited to, camps,  
14 workshops, therapeutic vacations, or educational programs, that, as a condition of  
15 enrollment or participation, require or result in any of the following:

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- 16 (1) Violation of a court order requiring that a child have no contact with his or her parent  
17 or legal guardian;
- 18 (2) An overnight, out-of-state, or multiday stay;
- 19 (3) A transfer of physical or legal custody of the child;
- 20 (4) The use of private youth transporters or private transportation agents engaged in the  
21 use of force, the threat of force, physical obstruction, acutely distressing circumstances,  
22 or circumstances that place the safety of the child at risk; or
- 23 (5) The use of threats of physical force; undue coercion; verbal abuse; isolation from the  
24 child's family, community, or other sources of support; or other distressing  
25 circumstances."

26 **SECTION 3.**

27 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.