

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

3 HOUSE BILL 2970

By: Nelson

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to crimes and punishments; amending  
8 21 O.S. 2011, Section 843.5, as amended by Section 1,  
Chapter 240, O.S.L. 2014 (21 O.S. Supp. 2015, Section  
9 843.5), which relates to child abuse; providing  
specified affirmative defense for enabling child  
10 abuse, neglect or exploitation; directing  
consideration for mitigation of punishment if  
11 evidence that domestic abuse, stalking or harassment  
would result; and providing an effective date.

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14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

15 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 21 O.S. 2011, Section 843.5, as  
16 amended by Section 1, Chapter 240, O.S.L. 2014 (21 O.S. Supp. 2015,  
17 Section 843.5), is amended to read as follows:

18 Section 843.5 A. Any parent or other person who shall  
19 willfully or maliciously engage in child abuse shall, upon  
20 conviction, be guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment in the  
21 custody of the Department of Corrections not exceeding life  
22 imprisonment, or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one  
23 (1) year, or by a fine of not less than Five Hundred Dollars  
24 (\$500.00) nor more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or both

1 such fine and imprisonment. As used in this subsection, "child  
2 abuse" means the willful or malicious harm or threatened harm or  
3 failure to protect from harm or threatened harm to the health,  
4 safety, or welfare of a child under eighteen (18) years of age by  
5 another, or the act of willfully or maliciously injuring, torturing  
6 or maiming a child under eighteen (18) years of age by another.

7 B. Any parent or other person who shall willfully or  
8 maliciously engage in enabling child abuse shall, upon conviction,  
9 be punished by imprisonment in the custody of the Department of  
10 Corrections not exceeding life imprisonment, or by imprisonment in a  
11 county jail not exceeding one (1) year, or by a fine of not less  
12 than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) nor more than Five Thousand  
13 Dollars (\$5,000.00) or both such fine and imprisonment. As used in  
14 this subsection, "enabling child abuse" means the causing, procuring  
15 or permitting of a willful or malicious act of harm or threatened  
16 harm or failure to protect from harm or threatened harm to the  
17 health, safety, or welfare of a child under eighteen (18) years of  
18 age by another. As used in this subsection, "permit" means to  
19 authorize or allow for the care of a child by an individual when the  
20 person authorizing or allowing such care knows or reasonably should  
21 know that the child will be placed at risk of abuse as proscribed by  
22 this subsection.

23 C. Any parent or other person who shall willfully or  
24 maliciously engage in child neglect shall, upon conviction, be

1 punished by imprisonment in the custody of the Department of  
2 Corrections not exceeding life imprisonment, or by imprisonment in a  
3 county jail not exceeding one (1) year, or by a fine of not less  
4 than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) nor more than Five Thousand  
5 Dollars (\$5,000.00), or both such fine and imprisonment. As used in  
6 this subsection, "child neglect" means the willful or malicious  
7 neglect, as defined by paragraph 47 of Section 1-1-105 of Title 10A  
8 of the Oklahoma Statutes, of a child under eighteen (18) years of  
9 age by another.

10 D. Any parent or other person who shall willfully or  
11 maliciously engage in enabling child neglect shall, upon conviction,  
12 be punished by imprisonment in the custody of the Department of  
13 Corrections not exceeding life imprisonment, or by imprisonment in a  
14 county jail not exceeding one (1) year, or by a fine of not less  
15 than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) nor more than Five Thousand  
16 Dollars (\$5,000.00), or both such fine and imprisonment. As used in  
17 this subsection, "enabling child neglect" means the causing,  
18 procuring or permitting of a willful or malicious act of child  
19 neglect, as defined by paragraph 47 of Section 1-1-105 of Title 10A  
20 of the Oklahoma Statutes, of a child under eighteen (18) years of  
21 age by another. As used in this subsection, "permit" means to  
22 authorize or allow for the care of a child by an individual when the  
23 person authorizing or allowing such care knows or reasonably should  
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1 know that the child will be placed at risk of neglect as proscribed  
2 by this subsection.

3 E. Any parent or other person who shall willfully or  
4 maliciously engage in child sexual abuse shall, upon conviction, be  
5 punished by imprisonment in the custody of the Department of  
6 Corrections not exceeding life imprisonment, or by imprisonment in a  
7 county jail not exceeding one (1) year, or by a fine of not less  
8 than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) nor more than Five Thousand  
9 Dollars (\$5,000.00), or both such fine and imprisonment, except as  
10 provided in Section 51.1a of this title or as otherwise provided in  
11 subsection F of this section for a child victim under twelve (12)  
12 years of age. Except for persons sentenced to life or life without  
13 parole, any person sentenced to imprisonment for two (2) years or  
14 more for a violation of this subsection shall be required to serve a  
15 term of post-imprisonment supervision pursuant to subparagraph f of  
16 paragraph 1 of subsection A of Section 991a of Title 22 of the  
17 Oklahoma Statutes under conditions determined by the Department of  
18 Corrections. The jury shall be advised that the mandatory post-  
19 imprisonment supervision shall be in addition to the actual  
20 imprisonment. As used in this section, "child sexual abuse" means  
21 the willful or malicious sexual abuse, which includes but is not  
22 limited to rape, incest, and lewd or indecent acts or proposals, of  
23 a child under eighteen (18) years of age by another.

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1 F. Any parent or other person who shall willfully or  
2 maliciously engage in sexual abuse to a child under twelve (12)  
3 years of age shall, upon conviction, be punished by imprisonment in  
4 the custody of the Department of Corrections for not less than  
5 twenty-five (25) years nor more than life imprisonment, and by a  
6 fine of not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) nor more than  
7 Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00).

8 G. Any parent or other person who shall willfully or  
9 maliciously engage in enabling child sexual abuse shall, upon  
10 conviction, be punished by imprisonment in the custody of the  
11 Department of Corrections not exceeding life imprisonment, or by  
12 imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one (1) year, or by a  
13 fine of not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) nor more than  
14 Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or both such fine and  
15 imprisonment. As used in this subsection, "enabling child sexual  
16 abuse" means the causing, procuring or permitting of a willful or  
17 malicious act of child sexual abuse, which includes but is not  
18 limited to rape, incest, and lewd or indecent acts or proposals, of  
19 a child under the age of eighteen (18) by another. As used in this  
20 subsection, "permit" means to authorize or allow for the care of a  
21 child by an individual when the person authorizing or allowing such  
22 care knows or reasonably should know that the child will be placed  
23 at risk of sexual abuse as proscribed by this subsection.

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1 H. Any parent or other person who shall willfully or  
2 maliciously engage in child sexual exploitation shall, upon  
3 conviction, be punished by imprisonment in the custody of the  
4 Department of Corrections not exceeding life imprisonment, or by  
5 imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one (1) year, or by a  
6 fine of not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) nor more than  
7 Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or both such fine and  
8 imprisonment except as provided in subsection I of this section for  
9 a child victim under twelve (12) years of age. Except for persons  
10 sentenced to life or life without parole, any person sentenced to  
11 imprisonment for two (2) years or more for a violation of this  
12 subsection shall be required to serve a term of post-imprisonment  
13 supervision pursuant to subparagraph f of paragraph 1 of subsection  
14 A of Section 991a of Title 22 of the Oklahoma Statutes under  
15 conditions determined by the Department of Corrections. The jury  
16 shall be advised that the mandatory post-imprisonment supervision  
17 shall be in addition to the actual imprisonment. As used in this  
18 subsection, "child sexual exploitation" means the willful or  
19 malicious sexual exploitation, which includes but is not limited to  
20 allowing, permitting, or encouraging a child under eighteen (18)  
21 years of age to engage in prostitution or allowing, permitting,  
22 encouraging or engaging in the lewd, obscene or pornographic  
23 photographing, filming, or depicting of a child under eighteen (18)  
24 years of age by another.

1 I. Any parent or other person who shall willfully or  
2 maliciously engage in sexual exploitation of a child under twelve  
3 (12) years of age shall, upon conviction, be punished by  
4 imprisonment in the custody of the Department of Corrections for not  
5 less than twenty-five (25) years nor more than life imprisonment,  
6 and by a fine of not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) nor  
7 more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00).

8 J. Any parent or other person who shall willfully or  
9 maliciously engage in enabling child sexual exploitation shall, upon  
10 conviction, be punished by imprisonment in the custody of the  
11 Department of Corrections not exceeding life imprisonment, or by  
12 imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one (1) year, or by a  
13 fine of not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) nor more than  
14 Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or both such fine and  
15 imprisonment. As used in this subsection, "enabling child sexual  
16 exploitation" means the causing, procuring or permitting of a  
17 willful or malicious act of child sexual exploitation, which  
18 includes but is not limited to allowing, permitting, or encouraging  
19 a child under eighteen (18) years of age to engage in prostitution  
20 or allowing, permitting, encouraging or engaging in the lewd,  
21 obscene or pornographic photographing, filming, or depicting of a  
22 child under eighteen (18) years of age by another. As used in this  
23 subsection, "permit" means to authorize or allow for the care of a  
24 child by an individual when the person authorizing or allowing such

1 care knows or reasonably should know that the child will be placed  
2 at risk of sexual exploitation as proscribed by this subsection.

3 K. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any parent or  
4 other person convicted of forcible anal or oral sodomy, rape, rape  
5 by instrumentation, or lewd molestation of a child under fourteen  
6 (14) years of age subsequent to a previous conviction for any  
7 offense of forcible anal or oral sodomy, rape, rape by  
8 instrumentation, or lewd molestation of a child under fourteen (14)  
9 years of age shall be punished by death or by imprisonment for life  
10 without parole.

11 L. Provided, however, that nothing contained in this section  
12 shall prohibit any parent or guardian from using reasonable and  
13 ordinary force pursuant to Section 844 of this title.

14 M. It shall be an affirmative defense to subsections B, D, G  
15 and J of this section if the parent or other person had a reasonable  
16 apprehension that any action to stop the child abuse, child neglect,  
17 child sexual abuse or child sexual exploitation would result in  
18 substantial bodily harm to the parent, other person or the child.

19 N. Evidence that the parent or other person had a reasonable  
20 apprehension that any action to stop the child abuse, child neglect,  
21 child sexual abuse or child sexual exploitation would result in  
22 domestic abuse, stalking or harassment as defined in Section 60.1 of  
23 Title 22 of the Oklahoma Statutes to the parent, other person or the  
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1 child shall be considered in mitigation of punishment for  
2 convictions under subsections B, D, G and J of this section.

3 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2016.

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