

Mandatory Reporter Release

2025 Law Changes Impacting Child and Dependent Adult Welfare

The following amendments are effective July 1, 2025:

Mandatory Reporter and Authorized Access

SF641 (Iowa Code §235A.15 and §235B.6)

This bill amends child abuse and dependent adult abuse information shall be confidential and shall not be a public record under chapter 22.

Confidential Abuse Information- Authorized Access

SF641 (Iowa Code §235B.6)

This bill allows access to dependent adult abuse information for an instrumentality of the state, or an agency under contract with the department to carry out official duties and functions.

Exploitation of a Dependent Adult

SF641 (Iowa Code §235B.2)

This bill amends the definition of exploitation to reflect the following:

Exploitation of a dependent adult which means a fraudulent or otherwise illegal, unauthorized, or improper attempt, act, or process by a caretaker or fiduciary to use the physical or financial resources of a dependent adult for any of the following reasons:

- Monetary or personal benefit, profit, or gain
- To deprive the dependent adult of the use of the dependent adult's physical or financial resources, including any benefits, belongings, or assets.

Dependent Adult Abuse Exploitation- Access to Financial Records

SF641 (Iowa Code §235B.3)

This bill amends the authority of the courts, upon showing probable cause there has been exploitation of a dependent adult, the ability to authorize a person, also authorized by the department, to make an evaluation, and to gain access to financial records that the department reasonably believes are related to the resources of the dependent adult.

Information Sharing with the Department

SF641 (Iowa Code §249A.4)

This bill requires providers, defined as an individual, firm, corporation, association or institution which is providing or has been approved to provide medical assistance/Medicaid to recipients under [Iowa Code 249A](#), to share information with the department as necessary to identify, prevent, or respond to child abuse as defined in section 232.68, and dependent adult abuse as defined in section 235B.2.

Delegation Of Custodial Rights and Duties

HF644 (Iowa Code §232.2, Iowa Code §237.10)

This bill amends to clarify and expand the Department's ability to delegate certain custodial rights and duties, such as consenting to routine medical care to licensed foster parents or kinship caregivers. The bill is structured with the goal of enabling caregivers to better support children's day-to-day needs without court delays.

Investigation Of Alleged Student Abuse by School Employees

SF659 (Iowa Code §232E.2)

This bill establishes new protocols for HHS to investigate abuse allegations by school employees involving students. School employees must be placed on administrative leave during investigations. Requires HHS to complete investigations within 30 business days and submit findings to the school and Board of Educational Examiners. Requires mandatory termination of school employees when HHS finds abuse occurred.

Placement of a Child in SAL Under a Consent Decree

HF298 (Iowa Code §232.496, Iowa Code §234.35)

This bill amends allowing for the placement of a youth under a consent decree in a supervised apartment living (SAL) arrangement, provided they have lived in a QRTP, shelter, or combination for at least 6 continuous months and lack family support.

Authorizing The Waiver of Preplacement Investigations

HF314 (Iowa Code §600.8)

This bill amends allowing the Juvenile Court or court to waive preplacement investigations and reports in certain adoptions cases, such as stepparent or kinship adoptions, or where the petitioner has had long-term legal guardianship. This aims to reduce procedural burdens in low-risk adoption scenarios while still allowing the court discretion to order an investigation if needed.

Ongoing Child Interactions During a Child in Need of Assistance Proceeding

[HF367](#) (Iowa Code §232.102A)

This bill amends requiring family interactions (visitation) to continue during a Child in Need of Assistance (CINA) proceeding even when a parent is noncompliant with court or department orders, unless the court finds that contact would pose a serious risk of harm to the child. The change ensures that the court reviews a suspension of interactions prior to the suspension being put in place and makes a finding that reasonable efforts continue to be made.

Formal Recognition and Prioritization of Kinship Caregivers in the Foster Care System

[SF641](#) (Iowa Code §232, Iowa Code §234, Iowa Code §237)

This bill amends expanding Iowa's foster care system to formally recognize and prioritize "kinship caregivers" defined as relatives or "fictive kin" with an emotional bond to the child. It introduces a new "approved kinship caregiver" status under Iowa Code 237.5B, allowing these caregivers to apply and be authorized through an expedited process to provide foster care to the relative or fictive kin children court-ordered to placement in their care—granting access to full financial support and resources. The law amends definitions across Code chapters 232, 234, and 237 to include kinship caregivers as foster parents, require case permanency plans to prioritize placement with relatives or fictive kin, and give them decision-making authority to apply the "reasonable and prudent parent" standard when a child is placed with them.

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