

Mandatory Reporter Release

2023 LAW CHANGES IMPACTING CHILD AND DEPENDENT ADULT WELFARE

THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS ARE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023:

CHILD WELFARE LEGAL REPRESENTATION PROJECT [HF 113](#) (IOWA CODE SECTION 13B.13)

This bill extended the state public defender pilot project for child welfare legal representation another year (through June 30, 2025) and expanded the project from six to sixteen counties throughout the state.

CONTINUOUS SEXUAL ABUSE OF A CHILD [HF 176](#) (IOWA CODE SECTION 709.23)

This bill amended the definition of *continuous sexual abuse of a child* to include any person 18 years of age or older who engages in any combination of three or more acts of sexual abuse with the same child and at least thirty days have elapsed between the first and last acts of sexual abuse. Previously, this definition only included any combination of three or more acts of sexual abuse in the second or third degree. The amended definition includes all acts of sexual abuse.

SAFETY PLANS [HF 471](#) (IOWA CODE CHAPTERS 226, 232, 331, 600, 812, 256, AND 331)

This bill provides the ability for HSS to enter into safety plans with a child's guardian, in addition to their parent and provides for additional issues relating to mental health and disability services provided by the state as well as judicial proceedings relating to child in need of assistance proceedings, adoptions, and the confinement of persons found incompetent to stand trial, including a requirement to send notice of adoption hearings to siblings under certain circumstances.

PATERNITY [HF 216](#) (IOWA CODE SECTIONS 232.2, 232.3A, 232.103A, 252.6A, 252C.4, 598.21E, 600B.41A, AND 602.6306)

This bill amended the definition of parent and adds or amends additional laws relating to paternity in certain actions before the juvenile court.

BRIDGE ORDERS [HF 359](#) (IOWA CODE SECTION 232.103B)

This bill adds a new section to provide the option for juvenile court to close a child in need of assistance case through a bridge order which transfer jurisdiction of the child's custody to the district court if certain criteria are met.

REPRESENTATION IN ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS [HF 398](#) (IOWA CODE SECTIONS 13B.9, 600.6 AND 600.11)

This bill requires representation to adoptive parents and children in certain adoption proceedings and modifies filing requirements for adoption petitions and notice requirements for adoption hearings of adults.

TPR [HF 400](#) (IOWA CODE SECTION 600A.9)

This bill provides for a parent to request a vacation of a termination of parental rights order under certain circumstances.

SAFE HAVEN [HF 425](#) (IOWA CODE CHAPTER 233)

This bill provides additional means for a parent to release custody of a newborn, in accordance with the Newborn Safe Haven Act, to medical staff at a hospital or other facility following delivery of the newborn infant or by relinquishing physical custody of the newborn infant at a hospital, a fire station, or an emergency medical care provider, through a newborn safety device, and provides additional definitions.

SAFE HAVEN [HF 474](#) (IOWA CODE SECTIONS 232.2, 232.78, 232.95, 232.102, 232.104, 233.1, 233.1A, 233.2, 233.5, & 233.6)

This bill added adoption service providers as one of the options that a parent of a newborn infant may voluntarily release custody of the newborn infant to, in accordance with the Newborn Safe Haven Act. This bill also requires adoption service providers who will be involved in the surrender of newborns to have CPR and first aid training for infants and adults.

FOSTER PARENTS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES [HF 584](#) (IOWA CODE CHAPTER 237)

This bill provides for rights and responsibilities to individual licensees who provide child foster care.

WRITTEN REPORTS OF DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE [ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGE 6966C](#) (IOWA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE CHAPTER 176)

This rule was adopted and filed, effective June 1, 2023 to eliminate the requirement for a mandatory reporter of dependent adult abuse to "Make a written report within 48 hours after an oral report". NOTE: The elimination of the written report for child abuse took effect July 1, 2022 after the passage of [House File 2507](#).

For additional mandatory reporter information, please visit:

<https://hhs.iowa.gov/child-welfare/mandatoryreporter>