IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1032

BY BOCK

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2	RELATING TO FOSTER CARE; AMENDING SECTION 16-1602, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE A
3	DEFINITION; AMENDING SECTION 16-1604, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE AN EXCEP-
4	TION; AMENDING SECTION 16-1619, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL
5	DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE LEGAL CUSTODY OF A CHILD UNDER SPEC-
5	IFIED CONDITIONS AND PROCEDURE; AMENDING SECTION 16-1629, IDAHO CODE,
7	TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT; AND AMENDING
3	SECTION 39-1202, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE A DEFINITION.

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

SECTION 1. That Section 16-1602, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

16-1602. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this chapter:

- (1) "Abused" means any case in which a child has been the victim of:
- (a) Conduct or omission resulting in skin bruising, bleeding, malnutrition, burns, fracture of any bone, subdural hematoma, soft tissue swelling, failure to thrive or death, and such condition or death is not justifiably explained, or where the history given concerning such condition or death is at variance with the degree or type of such condition or death, or the circumstances indicate that such condition or death may not be the product of an accidental occurrence; or
- (b) Sexual conduct, including rape, molestation, incest, prostitution, obscene or pornographic photographing, filming or depiction for commercial purposes, or other similar forms of sexual exploitation harming or threatening the child's health or welfare or mental injury to the child.
- (2) "Abandoned" means the failure of the parent to maintain a normal parental relationship with his child including, but not limited to, reasonable support or regular personal contact. Failure to maintain this relationship without just cause for a period of one (1) year shall constitute prima facie evidence of abandonment.
- (3) "Adaptive equipment" means any piece of equipment or any item that is used to increase, maintain or improve the parenting capabilities of a parent with a disability.
 - (4) "Adjudicatory hearing" means a hearing to determine:
 - (a) Whether the child comes under the jurisdiction of the court pursuant to the provisions of this chapter;
 - (b) Whether continuation of the child in the home would be contrary to the child's welfare and whether the best interest of the child requires protective supervision or vesting legal custody of the child in an authorized agency;
 - (c) Whether aggravated circumstances as defined in section 16-1619, Idaho Code, exist.

- (5) "Authorized agency" means the department, a local agency, a person, an organization, corporation, benevolent society or association licensed or approved by the department or the court to receive children for control, care, maintenance or placement.
 - (6) "Case plan hearing" means a hearing to:

- (a) Review, approve, modify or reject the case plan; and
- (b) Review reasonable efforts being made to rehabilitate the family; and
- (c) Review reasonable efforts being made to reunify the children with a parent or guardian.
- (7) "Child" means an individual who is under the age of eighteen (18) years. "Child" also includes a person under the age of twenty (20) years in foster care who is:
 - (a) Completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential;
 - (b) Enrolled in an institution that provides postsecondary or vocational education;
 - (c) Participating in a program or activity designed to promote, or remove barriers to, employment;
 - (d) Employed for at least eighty (80) hours per month; or
 - (e) Incapable of doing any of the activities described in paragraphs (a) through (d) of this subsection due to a medical condition, which incapability is supported by regularly updated information in the case plan of the child.
- (8) "Circumstances of the child" includes, but is not limited to, the joint legal custody or joint physical custody of the child.
 - (9) "Commit" means to transfer legal and physical custody.
- (10) "Concurrent planning" means a planning model that prepares for and implements different outcomes at the same time.
- (11) "Court" means district court or magistrate's division thereof, or if the context requires, a magistrate or judge thereof.
- (12) "Custodian" means a person, other than a parent or legal guardian, to whom legal or joint legal custody of the child has been given by court order.
- (13) "Department" means the department of health and welfare and its authorized representatives.
- (14) "Disability" means, with respect to an individual, any mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one (1) or more major life activity of the individual including, but not limited to, self-care, manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, learning or working, or a record of such an impairment, or being regarded as having such an impairment. Disability shall not include transvestism, transsexualism, pedophilia, exhibitionism, voyeurism, other sexual behavior disorders, or substance use disorders, compulsive gambling, kleptomania or pyromania. Sexual preference or orientation is not considered an impairment or disability. Whether an impairment substantially limits a major life activity shall be determined without consideration of the effect of corrective or mitigating measures used to reduce the effects of the impairment.
- (15) "Family or household member" shall have the same meaning as in section 39-6303(6), Idaho Code.

- (16) "Foster care" means twenty-four (24) hour substitute parental care for children placed away from their parents or guardians by persons who may or may not be related to the children and for whom the state agency has placement and care responsibility.
- (17) "Grant administrator" means the supreme court or any organization or agency as may be designated by the supreme court in accordance with such procedures as may be adopted by the supreme court. The grant administrator shall administer funds from the guardian ad litem account in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.
- (18) "Guardian ad litem" means a person appointed by the court pursuant to a guardian ad litem volunteer program to act as special advocate for a child under this chapter.
- (19) "Guardian ad litem coordinator" means a person or entity receiving moneys from the grant administrator for the purpose of carrying out any of the duties set forth in section 16-1632, Idaho Code.
- (20) "Guardian ad litem program" means the program to recruit, train and coordinate volunteer persons to serve as guardians ad litem for abused, neglected or abandoned children.
- (21) "Homeless," as used in this chapter, shall mean that the child is without adequate shelter or other living facilities, and the lack of such shelter or other living facilities poses a threat to the health, safety or well-being of the child.
- (22) "Law enforcement agency" means a city police department, the prosecuting attorney of any county, state law enforcement officers, or the office of a sheriff of any county.
- (23) "Legal custody" means a relationship created by court order, which vests in a custodian the following rights and responsibilities:
 - (a) To have physical custody and control of the child, and to determine where and with whom the child shall live.
 - (b) To supply the child with food, clothing, shelter and incidental necessities.
 - (c) To provide the child with care, education and discipline.
 - (d) To authorize ordinary medical, dental, psychiatric, psychological, or other remedial care and treatment for the child, including care and treatment in a facility with a program of services for children; and to authorize surgery if the surgery is deemed by two (2) physicians licensed to practice in this state to be necessary for the child.
 - (e) Where the parents share legal custody, the custodian may be vested with the custody previously held by either or both parents.
- (24) "Mental injury" means a substantial impairment in the intellectual or psychological ability of a child to function within a normal range of performance and/or behavior, for short or long terms.
 - (25) "Neglected" means a child:

(a) Who is without proper parental care and control, or subsistence, medical or other care or control necessary for his well-being because of the conduct or omission of his parents, guardian or other custodian or their neglect or refusal to provide them; however, no child whose parent or guardian chooses for such child treatment by prayers through spiritual means alone in lieu of medical treatment shall be deemed for that reason alone to be neglected or lack parental care necessary for his

health and well-being, but this subsection shall not prevent the court from acting pursuant to section 16-1627, Idaho Code; or

- (b) Whose parents, guardian or other custodian are unable to discharge their responsibilities to and for the child and, as a result of such inability, the child lacks the parental care necessary for his health, safety or well-being; or
- (c) Who has been placed for care or adoption in violation of law; or
- (d) Who is without proper education because of the failure to comply with section 33-202, Idaho Code.
- (26) "Permanency hearing" means a hearing to review, approve, reject or modify the permanency plan of the department, and review reasonable efforts in accomplishing the permanency plan.
- (27) "Permanency plan" means a plan for a continuous residence and maintenance of nurturing relationships during the child's minority.
- (28) "Protective order" means an order created by the court granting relief as delineated in section 39-6306, Idaho Code, and shall be for a period not to exceed three (3) months unless otherwise stated herein. Failure to comply with the order shall be a misdemeanor.
- (29) "Protective supervision" means a legal status created by court order in neglect and abuse cases whereby the child is permitted to remain in his home under supervision by the department.
- (30) "Relative" means a child's grandparent, great grandparent, aunt, great aunt, uncle, great uncle, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, first cousin, sibling and half-sibling.
- (31) "Residual parental rights and responsibilities" means those rights and responsibilities remaining with the parents after the transfer of legal custody including, but not necessarily limited to, the right of visitation, the right to consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation, the right to family counseling when beneficial, and the responsibility for support.
- (32) "Shelter care" means places designated by the department for temporary care of children pending court disposition or placement.
- (33) "Supportive services," as used in this chapter, shall mean services which assist parents with a disability to compensate for those aspects of their disability which affect their ability to care for their child and which will enable them to discharge their parental responsibilities. The term includes specialized or adapted training, evaluations or assistance with effectively using adaptive equipment and accommodations which allow parents with a disability to benefit from other services including, but not limited to, Braille texts or sign language interpreters.

SECTION 2. That Section 16-1604, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

16-1604. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION. (1) Except as provided for in section 16-1619(7), Idaho Code, jurisdiction obtained by the court under this chapter shall be retained until the child's eighteenth birthday, unless terminated prior thereto. Jurisdiction of the court shall not be terminated by an order of termination of parental rights if guardianship and/or custody of the child is placed with the department of health and welfare.

(2) The parties have an ongoing duty to inquire concerning, and inform the court as soon as possible about, any other pending actions or current orders involving the child. In the event there are conflicting orders from Idaho courts concerning the child, the child protection order is controlling.

- SECTION 3. That Section 16-1619, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 16-1619. ADJUDICATORY HEARING -- CONDUCT OF HEARING -- CONSOLIDATION. (1) When a petition has been filed, the court shall set an adjudicatory hearing to be held no later than thirty (30) days after the filing of the petition.
- (2) A pretrial conference shall be held outside the presence of the court within three (3) to five (5) days before the adjudicatory hearing. Investigative reports required under section 16-1616, Idaho Code, shall be delivered to the court with copies to each of the parents and other legal custodians, guardian ad litem and attorney for the child prior to the pretrial conference.
- (3) At the adjudicatory hearing, parents or guardians with disabilities shall have the right to introduce admissible evidence regarding how use of adaptive equipment or supportive services may enable the parent or guardian to carry out the responsibilities of parenting the child by addressing the reason for the removal of the child.
- (4) If a preponderance of the evidence at the adjudicatory hearing shows that the child comes within the court's jurisdiction under this chapter upon the grounds set forth in section 16-1603, Idaho Code, the court shall so decree and in its decree shall make a finding on the record of the facts and conclusions of law upon which it exercises jurisdiction over the child.
- (5) Upon entering its decree the court shall consider any information relevant to the disposition of the child but in any event shall:
 - (a) Place the child under protective supervision in his own home for an indeterminate period not to exceed the child's eighteenth birthday; or
 - (b) Vest legal custody in the department or other authorized agency subject to residual parental rights and subject to full judicial review by the court of all matters relating to the custody of the child by the department or other authorized agency.
- (6) If the court vests legal custody in the department or other authorized agency, the court shall make detailed written findings based on facts in the record, that, in addition to the findings required in subsection (4) of this section, continuation of residence in the home would be contrary to the welfare of the child and that vesting legal custody with the department or other authorized agency would be in the best interests of the child. In addition the court shall make detailed written findings based on facts in the record as to whether the department made reasonable efforts to prevent the placement of the child in foster care, including findings, when appropriate, that:
 - (a) Reasonable efforts were made but were not successful in eliminating the need for foster care placement of the child;

- (b) The department made reasonable efforts to prevent removal but was not able to safely provide preventive services;
- (c) Reasonable efforts to temporarily place the child with related persons were made but were not successful; or
- (d) Reasonable efforts were not required as the parent had subjected the child to aggravated circumstances as determined by the court including, but not limited to: abandonment; torture; chronic abuse; sexual abuse; committed murder; committed voluntary manslaughter of another child; aided or abetted, attempted, conspired or solicited to commit such a murder or voluntary manslaughter; committed a battery or an injury to a child that results in serious or great bodily injury to a child; or the parental rights of the parent to a sibling of the child have been terminated involuntarily and that as a result, a hearing to determine the permanent future plan for this child will be held within thirty (30) days of this determination.
- (7) A decree vesting legal custody in the department shall be binding upon the department and may continue until the child's eighteenth birthday. If the court finds that the child is in need of aid, the court, upon petition by the department, the child's guardian ad litem or the child, filed not more than three (3) months prior to the child's eighteenth birthday, may continue the department's legal custody of the child for up to two (2) years following the child's eighteenth birthday, provided that:
 - (a) Such additional legal custody is in the best interest of the child; and
 - (b) The child consents to such continuation. The consent of the child may be withdrawn at any time after the child's eighteenth birthday.
- (8) A decree vesting legal custody in an authorized agency other than the department shall be for a period of time not to exceed the child's eighteenth birthday, and on such other terms as the court shall state in its decree to be in the best interests of the child and which the court finds to be acceptable to such authorized agency.
- (9) In order to preserve the unity of the family system and to ensure the best interests of the child whether issuing an order of protective supervision or an order of legal custody, the court may consider extending or initiating a protective order as part of the decree. The protective order shall be determined as in the best interests of the child and upon a showing of continuing danger to the child. The conditions and terms of the protective order shall be clearly stated in the decree.
- (10) If the court does not find that the child comes within the jurisdiction of this chapter pursuant to subsection (4) of this section it shall dismiss the petition.
- SECTION 4. That Section 16-1629, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 16-1629. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT. The department, working in conjunction with the court and other public and private agencies and persons, shall have the primary responsibility to implement the purpose of this chapter. To this end, the department is empowered and shall have the duty to do all things reasonably necessary to carry out the purpose of this chapter, including, but not limited to, the following:

(1) The department shall administer treatment programs for the protection and care of neglected, abused and abandoned children, and in so doing may place in foster care, shelter care, or other diagnostic, treatment, or care centers or facilities, children of whom it has been given custody. The department is to be governed by the standards found in chapter 12, title 39, Idaho Code.

- (2) On December 1, the department shall make an annual statistical report to the governor covering the preceding fiscal year showing the number and status of persons in its custody and including such other data as will provide sufficient facts for sound planning in the conservation of children and youth. All officials and employees of the state and of every county and city shall furnish the department, upon request, such information within their knowledge and control as the department deems necessary. Local agencies shall report in such uniform format as may be required by the department.
- (3) The department shall be required to maintain a central registry for the reporting of child neglect, abuse and abandonment information. Provided however, that the department shall not retain any information for this purpose relating to a child, or parent of a child, abandoned pursuant to chapter 82, title 39, Idaho Code.
- (4) The department shall make periodic evaluation of all persons in its custody or under its supervision for the purpose of determining whether existing orders and dispositions in individual cases shall be modified or continued in force. Evaluations may be made as frequently as the department considers desirable and shall be made with respect to every person at intervals not exceeding six (6) months. Reports of evaluation made pursuant to this section shall be filed with the court which vested custody of the person with the department. Reports of evaluation shall be provided to persons having full or partial legal or physical custody of a child. Failure of the department to evaluate a person or to reevaluate him within six (6) months of a previous examination shall not of itself entitle the person to a change in disposition but shall entitle him, his parent, guardian or custodian or his counsel to petition the court pursuant to section 16-1622, Idaho Code.
- (5) In a consultive capacity, the department shall assist communities in the development of constructive programs for the protection, prevention and care of children and youth.
- (6) The department shall keep written records of investigations, evaluations, prognoses and all orders concerning disposition or treatment of every person over whom it has legal custody. Department records shall be subject to disclosure according to chapter 3, title 9, Idaho Code, unless otherwise ordered by the court, the person consents to the disclosure, or disclosure is necessary for the delivery of services to the person. Notwithstanding the provisions restricting disclosure or the exemptions from disclosure provided in chapter 3, title 9, Idaho Code, all records pertaining to investigations, the rehabilitation of youth, the protection of children, evaluation, treatment and/or disposition records pertaining to the statutory responsibilities of the department shall be disclosed to any duly elected state official carrying out his official functions.
- (7) The department shall establish appropriate administrative procedures for the processing of complaints of child neglect, abuse and abandon-

ment received and for the implementation of the protection, treatment and care of children formally or informally placed in the custody of the department under this chapter including, but not limited to:

- (a) Department employees whose job duties are related to the child protective services system under this chapter shall first be trained as to their obligations under this chapter regarding the protection of children whose health and safety may be endangered. The curriculum shall include information regarding their legal duties, how to conduct their work in conformity with the requirements of this chapter, information regarding applicable federal and state laws with regard to the rights of the child, parent and others who may be under investigation under the child protective services system, and the applicable legal and constitutional parameters within which they are to conduct their work.
- (b) Department employees whose job duties are related to the child protective services system shall advise the individual of the complaints or allegations made against the individual at the time of the initial contact, consistent with protecting the identity of the referent.
- (8) The department having been granted legal custody of a child, subject to the judicial review provisions of this subsection, shall have the right to determine where and with whom the child shall live, provided that the child shall not be placed outside the state without the court's consent. Provided however, that the court shall retain jurisdiction over the child, which jurisdiction shall be entered on any order or petition granting legal custody to the department, and the court shall have jurisdiction over all matters relating to the child. The department shall not place the child in the home from which the court ordered the child removed without first obtaining the approval of the court.
- (9) The department shall give to the court any information concerning the child that the court may at any time require, but in any event shall report the progress of the child under its custody at intervals of not to exceed six (6) months. The department shall file with the court at least five (5) days prior to the permanency hearing either under section 16-1622, Idaho Code, or, in the case of a finding of aggravated circumstances, section 16-1620, Idaho Code, the permanency plan and recommendations of the department. There shall be a rebuttable presumption that if a child is placed in the custody of the department and was also placed in out of the home care for a period not less than fifteen (15) out of the last twenty-two (22) months from the date the child entered shelter care, the department shall initiate a petition for termination of parental rights. This presumption may be rebutted by a finding of the court that the filing of a petition for termination of parental rights would not be in the best interest of the child or reasonable efforts have not been provided to reunite the child with his family, or the child is placed permanently with a relative.
- (10) The department shall establish appropriate administrative procedures for the conduct of administrative reviews and hearings as required by federal statute for all children committed to the department and placed in out of the home care.
- (11) At any time the department is considering a placement pursuant to this chapter, the department shall make a reasonable effort to place the child in the least restrictive environment to the child and in so doing shall

consider, consistent with the best interest and special needs of the child, placement priority of the child in the following order:

(a) A fit and willing relative.

- (b) A fit and willing nonrelative with a significant relationship with the child.
- (c) Foster parents and other persons licensed in accordance with chapter 12, title 39, Idaho Code.
- (12) The department is authorized to provide services to children who are continuing in the state's legal custody, pursuant to section 16-1619(7), Idaho Code, to assist the child in transitioning to adulthood. The department is authorized to seek federal funding and comply with the requirements of federal programs developed for this purpose.

SECTION 5. That Section 39-1202, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

39-1202. DEFINITIONS. For the purposes of this chapter:

- (1) "Board" means the Idaho board of health and welfare.
- (2) "Child care" means that care, control, supervision or maintenance of children for twenty-four (24) hours a day which is provided as an alternative to parental care.
- (3) "Child" means an individual less than eighteen (18) years of age who is not enrolled in an institution of higher education. "Child" also includes a person under the age of twenty (20) years in foster care who is:
 - (a) Completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential;
 - (b) Enrolled in an institution that provides postsecondary or vocational education;
 - (c) Participating in a program or activity designed to promote, or remove barriers to, employment;
 - (d) Employed for at least eighty (80) hours per month; or
 - (e) Incapable of doing any of the activities described in paragraphs (a) through (d) of this subsection due to a medical condition, which incapability is supported by regularly updated information in the case plan of the child.
- (4) "Children's agency" means a person who operates a business for the placement of children in foster homes or for adoption in a permanent home and who does not provide child care as part of that business. Children's agency does not include a licensed attorney or physician assisting or providing natural and adoptive parents with legal services or medical services necessary to initiate and complete adoptive placements.
- (5) "Children's camp" means a program of child care at a location away from the child's home which is primarily recreational and includes the overnight accommodation of the child and is not intended to provide treatment, therapy or rehabilitation for the child.
- (6) "Children's institution" means a person who operates a residential facility for children not related to that person if that person is an individual, for the purpose of providing child care. Children's institutions include, but are not limited to, foster homes, maternity homes, children's therapeutic outdoor programs, or any facilities providing treatment, therapy or rehabilitation for children. Children's institutions do not include:

- (a) facilities which provide only daycare as defined in chapter 11, title 39, Idaho Code; (b) facilities and agencies including hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities, and intermediate care facilities for people with intellectual disabilities licensed pursuant to chapter 13, title 39, Idaho Code; (c) day schools; (d) individuals acting in an advisory capacity, counseling a child in a religious context, and providing no child care associated with the advice; (e) the occasional or irregular care of a neighbor's, relative's or friend's child or children by a person not ordinarily engaged in child care.
- (7) "Children's residential care facility" means a children's institution, excluding:
 - (a) Foster homes;

- (b) Residential schools;
- (c) Children's camps.

No facility expressly excluded from the definition of a children's institution is included within the definition of a children's residential care facility.

- (8) "Children's therapeutic outdoor program" is a program which is designed to provide behavioral, substance abuse, or mental health services to minors in an outdoor setting. This does not include children's camps, church camps, or other outdoor programs primarily designed to be educational or recreational, such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H or sports camps.
- (9) "Continued care" means the ongoing placement of an individual in a foster home, children's residential care facility, or transitional living placement who reaches the age of eighteen (18) years but is less than twentyone (21) years of age.
- (10) "Day school" means a public, private, parochial or secular facility offering an educational program in which the children leave the facility each day at the conclusion of the academic, vocational or school supervised activities.
 - (11) "Department" means the state department of health and welfare.
- (12) "Director" means the director of the department of health and welfare.
- (13) "Foster care" means child care by a person not related to the child, in lieu of parental care, in a foster home.
- (14) "Foster home" means a home which accepts, for any period of time, with or without compensation, one (1) or more children who are not related to the foster parent as members of the household for the purpose of providing substitute parental care.
- (15) "Group care" means foster care of a number of children for whom child care in a family setting is not available or appropriate, in a dormitory or cottage type setting, characterized by activities and discipline of a more regimented and less formal nature than found in a family setting.
- (16) "Juvenile detention" is as defined in section 20-502(6), Idaho Code, of the juvenile corrections act.
- (17) "Juvenile detention center" means a facility established pursuant to sections 20-517 and 20-518, Idaho Code.
- (18) "Person" includes any individual, group of individuals, association, partnership, limited liability company or corporation.

- (19) "Placement" means finding a suitable licensed foster home or suitable adoptive home for a child and completing the arrangements for a child to be accepted into and adjusted to such home.
- (20) "Relative" means a child's grandparent, great grandparent, aunt, great aunt, uncle, great uncle, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, first cousin, sibling and half-sibling.
- (21) "Representative" means an employee of the state department of health and welfare.
- (22) "Residential facility" means any facility where child care is provided, as defined in this section, and which provides day and night accommodation.
- (23) "Residential school" means a residential facility for children which:
 - (a) Provides a planned, scheduled, regular, academic or vocational school program for students in the elementary, middle or secondary grades as defined in section 33-1001, Idaho Code; and
 - (b) Provides services substantially comparable to those provided in nonresidential public schools where the primary purpose is the education and academic pursuits of the students; and
 - (c) Does not seek, receive or enroll students for treatment of such special needs as substance abuse, mental illness, emotional disturbance, developmental disability or intellectual disability; and
 - (d) Is not:

- (i) A college or university; or
- (ii) A children's camp as defined in this section; or
- (iii) A public or private day school in which the children leave the facility each day at the conclusion of the academic, vocational and school supervised activities.
- (24) "Transitional living" means living arrangements and aftercare services for children, or as continued care, to gain experience living on their own in a supportive and supervised environment prior to emancipation.