

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

SENATE BILL 551

By: Woods

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to crimes and punishments; amending 21 O.S. 2021, Section 843.5, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 151, O.S.L. 2024 (21 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 843.5), which relates to child abuse; modifying penalty of certain unlawful act; updating statutory language; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 21 O.S. 2021, Section 843.5, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 151, O.S.L. 2024 (21 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 843.5), is amended to read as follows:

Section 843.5. A. Any person who shall willfully or maliciously engage in child abuse, as defined in this section, shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment in the custody of the Department of Corrections not exceeding life imprisonment, or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one (1) year, or by a fine ~~of~~ not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) nor more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or both such fine and imprisonment.

1       B. Any person responsible for the health, safety, or welfare of  
2 a child who shall willfully or maliciously engage in enabling child  
3 abuse, as defined in this section, shall, upon conviction, be  
4 punished by imprisonment in the custody of the Department of  
5 Corrections not exceeding life imprisonment, or by imprisonment in a  
6 county jail not exceeding one (1) year, or by a fine ~~of~~ not less  
7 than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) nor more than Five Thousand  
8 Dollars (\$5,000.00), or both such fine and imprisonment.

9       C. Any person responsible for the health, safety, or welfare of  
10 a child who shall willfully or maliciously engage in child neglect,  
11 as defined in this section, shall, upon conviction, be punished by  
12 imprisonment in the custody of the Department of Corrections not  
13 exceeding life imprisonment, or by imprisonment in a county jail not  
14 exceeding one (1) year, or by a fine ~~of~~ not less than Five Hundred  
15 Dollars (\$500.00) nor more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00),  
16 or both such fine and imprisonment.

17       D. Any parent or other person who shall willfully or  
18 maliciously engage in enabling child neglect shall, upon conviction,  
19 be punished by imprisonment in the custody of the Department of  
20 Corrections not exceeding life imprisonment, or by imprisonment in a  
21 county jail not exceeding one (1) year, or by a fine ~~of~~ not less  
22 than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) nor more than Five Thousand  
23 Dollars (\$5,000.00), or both such fine and imprisonment.

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

20 F. Any person responsible for the health, safety, or welfare of  
21 a child who shall willfully or maliciously engage in child sexual  
22 abuse, as defined in this section, to a child under twelve (12)  
23 years of age shall, upon conviction, be punished by imprisonment in  
24 the custody of the Department of Corrections for not less than

1 twenty-five (25) years nor more than life imprisonment, and by a  
2 fine ~~of~~ not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) nor more than  
3 Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00).

4 G. Any parent or other person who shall willfully or  
5 maliciously engage in enabling child sexual abuse shall, upon  
6 conviction, be punished by imprisonment in the custody of the  
7 Department of Corrections not exceeding life imprisonment, or by  
8 imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one (1) year, or by a  
9 fine ~~of~~ not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) nor more than  
10 Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or both such fine and  
11 imprisonment.

12 H. Any person who shall willfully or maliciously engage in  
13 child sexual exploitation, as defined in this section, shall, upon  
14 conviction, be punished by imprisonment in the custody of the  
15 Department of Corrections not exceeding life imprisonment, or by  
16 imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one (1) year, or by a  
17 fine ~~of~~ not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) nor more than  
18 Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or both such fine and  
19 imprisonment, except as provided in subsection I of this section for  
20 a child victim under twelve (12) years of age. Except for persons  
21 sentenced to life or life without parole, any person sentenced to  
22 imprisonment for two (2) years or more for a violation of this  
23 subsection shall be required to serve a term of post-imprisonment  
24 supervision pursuant to subparagraph f of paragraph 1 of subsection

1 A of Section 991a of Title 22 of the Oklahoma Statutes under  
2 conditions determined by the Department of Corrections. The jury  
3 shall be advised that the mandatory post-imprisonment supervision  
4 shall be in addition to the actual imprisonment.

5 I. Any person who shall willfully or maliciously engage in  
6 child sexual exploitation, as defined in this section, of a child  
7 under twelve (12) years of age shall, upon conviction, be punished  
8 by imprisonment in the custody of the Department of Corrections for  
9 not less than twenty-five (25) years nor more than life  
10 imprisonment, and by a fine ~~of~~ not less than Five Hundred Dollars  
11 (\$500.00) nor more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00).

12 J. Any person responsible for the health, safety, or welfare of  
13 a child who shall willfully or maliciously engage in enabling child  
14 sexual exploitation, as defined in this section, shall, upon  
15 conviction, be punished by imprisonment in the custody of the  
16 Department of Corrections not exceeding life imprisonment, or by  
17 imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one (1) year, or by a  
18 fine ~~of~~ not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) nor more than  
19 Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or both such fine and  
20 imprisonment.

21 K. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person  
22 convicted of forcible anal or oral sodomy, rape, rape by  
23 instrumentation, or lewd molestation of a child under fourteen (14)  
24 years of age subsequent to a previous conviction for any offense of

1 forcible anal or oral sodomy, rape, rape by instrumentation, or lewd  
2 molestation of a child under fourteen (14) years of age shall be  
3 punished by death or by imprisonment for life without parole.

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

7 M. Consent shall not be a defense for any violation provided  
8 for in this section.

9 N. Notwithstanding the age requirements of other statutes  
10 referenced within this section, this section shall apply to any  
11 child under eighteen (18) years of age.

12 O. As used in this section:

13 1. "Child abuse" means:

- 14 a. the willful or malicious harm or threatened harm or  
15 failure to protect from harm or threatened harm to the  
16 health, safety, or welfare of a child under eighteen  
17 (18) years of age by a person responsible for a  
18 child's health, safety, or welfare, or  
19 b. the act of willfully or maliciously injuring,  
20 torturing, or maiming a child under eighteen (18)  
21 years of age by any person;

22 2. "Child neglect" means the willful or malicious neglect, as  
23 defined by Section 1-1-105 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes, of  
24

1 a child under eighteen (18) years of age by a person responsible for  
2 a child's health, safety, or welfare;

3 3. "Child sexual abuse" means the willful or malicious sexual  
4 abuse of a child under eighteen (18) years of age by a person  
5 responsible for a child's health, safety, or welfare and includes,  
6 but is not limited to:

- 7 a. sexual intercourse,
- 8 b. penetration of the vagina or anus, however slight, by  
9 an inanimate object or any part of the human body not  
10 amounting to sexual intercourse,
- 11 c. sodomy,
- 12 d. incest, or
- 13 e. a lewd act or proposal, as defined in this section;

14 4. "Child sexual exploitation" means the willful or malicious  
15 sexual exploitation of a child under eighteen (18) years of age by  
16 another and includes, but is not limited to:

- 17 a. human trafficking, as provided for in Section 748 of  
18 this title, if the offense involved child trafficking  
19 for commercial sex,
- 20 b. trafficking in children, as provided for in Section  
21 866 of this title, if the offense was committed for  
22 the sexual gratification of any person,

- c. procuring or causing the participation of a minor in child ~~pornography~~ sexual abuse material, as provided for in Section 1021.2 of this title,
- d. purchase, procurement, or possession of child ~~pornography~~ sexual abuse material, as provided for in Section 1024.2 of this title,
- e. engaging in or soliciting prostitution, as provided for in Section 1029 of this title, if the offense involved child sex trafficking,
- f. publication, distribution, or participation in the preparation of obscene material, as provided for in Section 1040.8 of this title, if the offense involved child ~~pornography~~ sexual abuse material,
- g. aggravated possession of child ~~pornography~~ sexual abuse material, as provided for in Section 1040.12a of this title,
- h. sale or distribution of obscene material, as provided for in Section 1040.13 of this title,
- i. soliciting sexual conduct or communication with a minor by use of technology, as provided for in Section 1040.13a of this title,
- j. offering or transporting a child for purposes of child sex trafficking, as provided for in Section 1087 of this title, and



1           k.    child sex trafficking, as provided for in Section 1088  
2                of this title;

3           5.    "Enabling child abuse" means the causing, procuring, or  
4           permitting of child abuse by a person responsible for a child's  
5           health, safety, or welfare;

6           6.    "Enabling child neglect" means the causing, procuring, or  
7           permitting of child neglect by a person responsible for a child's  
8           health, safety, or welfare;

9           7.    "Enabling child sexual abuse" means the causing, procuring,  
10           or permitting of child sexual abuse by a person responsible for a  
11           child's health, safety, or welfare;

12           8.    "Enabling child sexual exploitation" means the causing,  
13           procuring, or permitting of child sexual exploitation by a person  
14           responsible for a child's health, safety, or welfare;

15           9.    "Incest" means marrying, committing adultery, or fornicating  
16           with a child by a person responsible for the health, safety, or  
17           welfare of a child;

18           10.   "Lewd act or proposal" means:

19               a.   making any oral, written, or electronic or computer-  
20               generated lewd or indecent proposal to a child for the  
21               child to have unlawful sexual relations or sexual  
22               intercourse with any person,

- 1           b.   looking upon, touching, mauling, or feeling the body  
2           or private parts of a child in a lewd or lascivious  
3           manner or for the purpose of sexual gratification,  
4           c.   asking, inviting, enticing, or persuading any child to  
5           go alone with any person to a secluded, remote, or  
6           secret place for a lewd or lascivious purpose,  
7           d.   urinating or defecating upon a child or causing,  
8           forcing, or requiring a child to defecate or urinate  
9           upon the body or private parts of another person for  
10          the purpose of sexual gratification,  
11          e.   ejaculating upon or in the presence of a child,  
12          f.   causing, exposing, forcing, or requiring a child to  
13          look upon the body or private parts of another person  
14          for the purpose of sexual gratification,  
15          g.   causing, forcing, or requiring any child to view any  
16          obscene materials, child ~~pornography~~ sexual abuse  
17          material or materials deemed harmful to minors as such  
18          terms are defined in Sections 1024.1 and 1040.75 of  
19          this title,  
20          h.   causing, exposing, forcing, or requiring a child to  
21          look upon sexual acts performed in the presence of the  
22          child for the purpose of sexual gratification, or  
23  
24

1 i. causing, forcing, or requiring a child to touch or  
2 feel the body or private parts of the child or another  
3 person for the purpose of sexual gratification;

4 11. "Permit" means to authorize or allow for the care of a  
5 child by an individual when the person authorizing or allowing such  
6 care knows or reasonably should know that the child will be placed  
7 at risk of the conduct or harm proscribed by this section;

8 12. "Person responsible for a child's health, safety, or  
9 welfare" for purposes of this section shall include, but not be  
10 limited to:

- 11 a. the parent of the child,
- 12 b. the legal guardian of the child,
- 13 c. the custodian of the child,
- 14 d. the foster parent of the child,
- 15 e. a person eighteen (18) years of age or older with whom  
16 the parent of the child cohabitates, who is at least  
17 three (3) years older than the child,
- 18 f. any other person eighteen (18) years of age or older  
19 residing in the home of the child, who is at least  
20 three (3) years older than the child,
- 21 g. an owner, operator, agent, employee, or volunteer of a  
22 public or private residential home, institution,  
23 facility, or day treatment program, as defined in  
24

1           Section 175.20 of Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes,  
2           that the child attended,

3           h.    an owner, operator, agent, employee, or volunteer of a  
4           child care facility, as defined in Section 402 of  
5           Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes, that the child  
6           attended,

7           i.    an intimate partner of the parent of the child, as  
8           defined in Section 60.1 of Title 22 of the Oklahoma  
9           Statutes, or

10          j.    a person who has voluntarily accepted responsibility  
11          for the care or supervision of a child;

12          13.   "Sexual intercourse" means the actual penetration, however  
13          slight, of the vagina or anus by the penis; and

14          14.   "Sodomy" means:

15          a.    penetration, however slight, of the mouth of the child  
16          by a penis,

17          b.    penetration, however slight, of the vagina of a person  
18          responsible for a child's health, safety, or welfare,  
19          by the mouth of a child,

20          c.    penetration, however slight, of the mouth of the  
21          person responsible for a child's health, safety, or  
22          welfare by the penis of the child, or  
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1           d.   penetration, however slight, of the vagina of the  
2           child by the mouth of the person responsible for a  
3           child's health, safety, or welfare.

4       SECTION 2.   This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

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