HOUSE BILL NO. 5974

March 24, 2022, Introduced by Reps. Whiteford, Green, Wakeman, Brann, Kahle, Brenda Carter, Young, Pohutsky, Tyrone Carter, O'Malley and Anthony and referred to the Committee on Families, Children, and Seniors.

A bill to amend 1939 PA 288, entitled "Probate code of 1939,"

by amending section 13a of chapter XIIA (MCL 712A.13a), as amended by 2016 PA 191.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

CHAPTER XIIA

Sec. 13a. (1) As used in this section and sections 2, 6b, 13b,

17c, 17d, 18f, 19, 19a, 19b, and 19c of this chapter:

(a) "Agency" means a public or private organization,

institution, or facility that is performing the functions under

- part D of title IV of the social security act, 42 USC 651 to 669b,
 to or that is responsible under court order or contractual arrangement
 for a juvenile's care and supervision.
- 4 (b) "Agency case file" means the current file from the agency
 5 providing direct services to the child, that ean may include the
 6 child protective services file if the child has not been removed
 7 from the home or the department or contract agency foster care file
 8 as provided under 1973 PA 116, MCL 722.111 to 722.128.
- 9 (c) "Attorney" means, if appointed to represent a child in a 10 proceeding under section 2(b) or (c) of this chapter, an attorney 11 serving as the child's legal advocate in a traditional attorneyclient relationship with the child, as governed by the Michigan 12 rules of professional conduct. Rules of Professional Conduct. An 13 14 attorney defined under this subdivision owes the same duties of 15 undivided loyalty, confidentiality, and zealous representation of 16 the child's expressed wishes as the attorney would to an adult 17 client. For the purpose of a notice required under these sections, 18 attorney includes a child's lawyer-quardian ad litem.

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- (d) "Case service plan" means the plan developed by an agency and prepared under section 18f of this chapter that includes services to be provided by and responsibilities and obligations of the agency and activities, responsibilities, and obligations of the parent. The case service plan may be referred to using different names than case service plan including, but not limited to, a parent/agency agreement or a parent/agency treatment plan and service agreement.
- (e) "Foster care" means care provided to a juvenile in a
 foster family home, foster family group home, or child caring
 institution licensed or approved under 1973 PA 116, MCL 722.111 to

- 1 722.128, or care provided to a juvenile in a relative's home under a court order.
- a court oracr.
- 3 (f) "Guardian ad litem" means an individual whom the court
- 4 appoints to assist the court in determining the child's best
- 5 interests. A guardian ad litem does not need to be an attorney.
- 6 (q) "Lawyer-quardian ad litem" means an attorney appointed
- 7 under section 17c of this chapter. A lawyer-quardian ad litem
- 8 represents the child, and has the powers and duties, as set forth
- 9 in section 17d of this chapter. The provisions of section 17d of
- 10 this chapter also apply to a lawyer-guardian ad litem appointed
- 11 under each of the following:
- 12 (i) Section 5213 or 5219 of the estates and protected
- 13 individuals code, 1998 PA 386, MCL 700.5213 and 700.5219.
- 14 (ii) Section 4 of the child custody act of 1970, 1970 PA 91,
- **15** MCL 722.24.
- 16 (iii) Section 10 of the child protection law, 1975 PA 238, MCL
- **17** 722.630.
- 18 (h) "Nonparent adult" means a person who is 18 years of age or
- 19 older and who, regardless of the person's domicile, meets all of
- 20 the following criteria in relation to a child over whom the court
- 21 takes jurisdiction under this chapter:
- 22 (i) Has substantial and regular contact with the child.
- (ii) Has a close personal relationship with the child's parent
- 24 or with a person responsible for the child's health or welfare.
- 25 (iii) Is not the child's parent or a person otherwise related to
- 26 the child by blood or affinity to the third degree.
- (i) "Permanent foster family agreement" means an agreement for
- 28 a child 14 years old or older to remain with a particular foster
- 29 family until the child is 18 years old under standards and

- 1 requirements established by the department, which agreement is
- 2 among all of the following:
- (i) The child.
- 4 (ii) If the child is a temporary ward, the child's family.
- (iii) The foster family.
- 6 (iv) The child placing agency responsible for the child's care 7 in foster care.
- 8 (j) "Relative" means an individual who is at least 18 years of9 age and related is 1 of the following:
- (i) Related to the child by blood, marriage, or adoption, as grandparent, great-grandparent, great-grandparent, aunt or uncle, great-aunt or great-uncle, great-great-aunt or great-great- uncle, sibling, stepsibling, nephew or niece, first cousin or first
- 14 cousin once removed, and the spouse of any of the above, even after
- 15 the marriage has ended by death or divorce.
- 16 (ii) A—For the purpose of placement, a stepparent, ex-17 stepparent, or the parent who shares custody of a half-sibling.
- 18 shall be considered a relative for the purpose of placement.
- 19 Notification to the stepparent, ex-stepparent, or the parent who
- 20 shares custody of a half-sibling is required as described in
- 21 section 4a of the foster care and adoption services act, 1994 PA
- 22 203, MCL 722.954a.
- 23 (iii) A child may be placed with For the purpose of placement,
- 24 the parent of a man whom the court has found probable cause to
- 25 believe is the putative father if there is no man with legally
- 26 established rights to the child. A placement with the parent of a
- 27 putative father under this subdivision subparagraph is not a
- 28 finding of paternity and does not confer legal standing on the
- 29 putative father.

- 1 (iv) For the purpose of placement, a nonparent adult.
- (k) "Sex offenders registration act" means the sex offenders
 registration act, 1994 PA 295, MCL 28.721 to 28.736.28.730.
- 4 (l) "Sibling" means a child who is related through birth or
 5 adoption by at least 1 common parent. Sibling includes that term as
 6 defined by the an American Indian or Alaskan native child's tribal
 7 code or custom.
- 8 (2) If a juvenile is alleged to be within the provisions of 9 section 2(b) of this chapter, the court may authorize a petition to 10 be filed at the conclusion of the preliminary hearing or inquiry. 11 The court may authorize the petition upon a showing of probable 12 cause that 1 or more of the allegations in the petition are true 13 and fall within the provisions of section 2(b) of this chapter. If 14 a petition is before the court because the department is required 15 to submit the petition under section 17 of the child protection law, 1975 PA 238, MCL 722.637, the court shall hold a hearing on 16 17 the petition within 24 hours or on the next business day after the 18 petition is submitted, at which hearing the court shall consider at 19 least the matters governed by subsections (4) and (5).
 - (3) Except as provided in subsections (5) and (6), if a petition under subsection (2) is authorized, the court may release the juvenile in the custody of either of the juvenile's parents or the juvenile's guardian or custodian under reasonable terms and conditions necessary for either the juvenile's physical health or mental well-being.

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(4) The court may order a parent, guardian, custodian,
nonparent adult, or other person residing in a child's home to
leave the home and, except as the court orders, not to subsequently
return to the home if all of the following take place:

- (a) A petition alleging abuse of the child by the parent,
 guardian, custodian, nonparent adult, or other person is authorized
 under subsection (2).
- 4 (b) The court after a hearing finds probable cause to believe
 5 the parent, guardian, custodian, nonparent adult, or other person
 6 committed the abuse.
- 7 (c) The court finds on the record that the presence in the 8 home of the person alleged to have committed the abuse presents a 9 substantial risk of harm to the child's life, physical health, or 10 mental well-being.
- 11 (5) If a petition alleges abuse by a person described in subsection (4), regardless of whether the court orders the alleged 12 abuser to leave the child's home under subsection (4), the court 13 14 shall not leave the child in or return the child to the child's 15 home or place the child with a person not licensed under 1973 PA 16 116, MCL 722.111 to 722.128, unless the court finds that the 17 conditions of custody at the placement and with the individual with 18 whom the child is placed are adequate to safeguard the child from the risk of harm to the child's life, physical health, or mental 19 20 well-being.
- 21 (6) If a court finds a parent is required by court order to
 22 register under the sex offenders registration act, the department
 23 may, but is not required to, make reasonable efforts to reunify the
 24 child with the parent. The court may order reasonable efforts to be
 25 made by the department.
- (7) In determining whether to enter an order under subsection
 (4), the court may consider whether the parent who is to remain in
 the juvenile's home is married to the person to be removed or has a
 legal right to retain possession of the home.

- 3 (a) The court may require the alleged abusive parent to pay
 4 appropriate support to maintain a suitable home environment for the
 5 juvenile during the duration of the order.
- 6 (b) The court may order the alleged abusive person, according
 7 to terms the court may set, to surrender to a local law enforcement
 8 agency any firearms or other potentially dangerous weapons the
 9 alleged abusive person owns, possesses, or uses.
- 10 (c) The court may include any reasonable term or condition
 11 necessary for the juvenile's physical or mental well-being or
 12 necessary to protect the juvenile.
- 13 (9) The court may order placement of the child in foster care
 14 if the court finds all of the following conditions:
- (a) Custody of the child with the parent presents asubstantial risk of harm to the child's life, physical health, ormental well-being.
- 18 (b) No provision of service or other arrangement except19 removal of the child is reasonably available to adequately20 safeguard the child from risk as described in subdivision (a).
- (c) Continuing the child's residence in the home is contraryto the child's welfare.
- (d) Consistent with the circumstances, reasonable efforts weremade to prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the child.
- (e) Conditions of child custody away from the parent areadequate to safeguard the child's health and welfare.
- 27 (10) If the court orders placement of the juvenile outside the
 28 juvenile's home, the court shall inform the parties of the
 29 following:

- 1 (a) That the agency has the responsibility to prepare an2 initial services plan within 30 days of the juvenile's placement.
- 3 (b) The general elements of an initial services plan as
 4 required by the rules promulgated under 1973 PA 116, MCL 722.111 to
 5 722.128.
- 6 (c) That participation in the initial services plan is7 voluntary without a court order.
- 9 relative's home, the department shall perform a criminal record 10 check and central registry clearance. If the child is placed in the 11 home of a relative, the court shall order a home study to be 12 performed and a copy of the home study to be submitted to the court 13 not more than 30 days after the placement.
- 14 (12) In determining placement of a juvenile pending trial, the
 15 court shall order the juvenile placed in the most family-like
 16 setting available consistent with the juvenile's needs.
- 17 (13) If a juvenile is removed from the parent's custody at any 18 time, the court shall permit the juvenile's parent to have regular 19 and frequent parenting time with the juvenile. Parenting time 20 between the juvenile and his or her parent shall must not be less 21 than 1 time every 7 days unless the court determines either that 22 exigent circumstances require less frequent parenting time or that 23 parenting time, even if supervised, may be harmful to the 24 juvenile's life, physical health, or mental well-being. If the 25 court determines that parenting time, even if supervised, may be harmful to the juvenile's life, physical health, or mental well-26 27 being, the court may suspend parenting time until the risk of harm 28 no longer exists. The court may order the juvenile to have a 29 psychological evaluation or counseling, or both, to determine the

- 1 appropriateness and the conditions of parenting time.
- 2 (14) Reasonable efforts shall must be made to do the
 3 following:
- 4 (a) Place siblings removed from their home in the same foster
 5 care, kinship guardianship, or adoptive placement, unless the
 6 supervising agency documents that a joint placement would be
 7 contrary to the safety or well-being of any of the siblings.
- 8 (b) In the case of siblings removed from their home who are
 9 not jointly placed, provide for visitation, at least monthly, or
 10 other ongoing interaction between the siblings, unless the
 11 supervising agency documents that visitation, at least monthly, or
 12 other ongoing interaction would be contrary to the safety or well13 being of any of the siblings.
- 14 (15) If the supervising agency documents that visitation or 15 other contact is contrary to the safety or well-being of any of the 16 siblings and temporarily suspends visitation or contact, the 17 supervising agency shall report its determination to the court for 18 consideration at the next review hearing.
- 19 (16) If the supervising agency temporarily suspends visitation 20 or contact, the court shall review the decision and determine 21 whether sibling visitation or contact will be beneficial to the 22 siblings. If so, the court shall order sibling visitation or 23 contact to the extent reasonable.
 - (17) Upon the motion of any party, the court shall review custody and placement orders and initial services plans pending trial and may modify those orders and plans as the court considers under this section are—is in the juvenile's best interests.
- (18) The court shall include in an order placing a child infoster care an order directing the release of information

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- 1 concerning the child in accordance with this subsection. If a child
- 2 is placed in foster care, within 10 days after receipt of a written
- 3 request, the agency shall provide the person who is providing the
- 4 foster care with copies of all initial, updated, and revised case
- 5 service plans and court orders relating to the child and all of the
- 6 child's medical, mental health, and education reports, including
- 7 reports compiled before the child was placed with that person.
- 8 (19) In an order placing a child in foster care, the court
- 9 shall include both of the following:
- 10 (a) An order that the child's parent, guardian, or custodian
- 11 provide the supervising agency with the name and address of each of
- 12 the child's medical providers.
- 13 (b) An order that each of the child's medical providers
- 14 release the child's medical records. The order may specify
- 15 providers by profession or type of institution.
- 16 (20) As used in this section, "abuse" means 1 or more of the
- 17 following:
- 18 (a) Harm or threatened harm by a person to a juvenile's health
- 19 or welfare that occurs through nonaccidental physical or mental
- 20 injury.
- 21 (b) Engaging in sexual contact or sexual penetration as those
- 22 terms are defined in section 520a of the Michigan penal code, 1931
- 23 PA 328, MCL 750.520a, with a juvenile.
- 24 (c) Sexual exploitation of a juvenile, which includes, but is
- 25 not limited to, allowing, permitting, or encouraging a juvenile to
- 26 engage in prostitution or allowing, permitting, encouraging, or
- 27 engaging in photographing, filming, or depicting a juvenile engaged
- 28 in a listed sexual act as that term is defined in section 145c of
- 29 the Michigan penal code, 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.145c.

1 (d) Maltreatment of a juvenile.