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## SENATE BILL NO. 63

Offered January 12, 2022

Prefiled January 3, 2022

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 16.1-228, 18.2-371, 18.2-371.1, 40.1-103, and 63.2-100 of the Code of Virginia, relating to abuse and neglect of a child; safe haven defense.

Patron—Ruff

Referred to Committee on the Judiciary

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That §§ 16.1-228, 18.2-371, 18.2-371.1, 40.1-103, and 63.2-100 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 16.1-228. Definitions.**

As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Abused or neglected child" means any child:

1. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care creates or inflicts, threatens to create or inflict, or allows to be created or inflicted upon such child a physical or mental injury by other than accidental means, or creates a substantial risk of death, disfigurement or impairment of bodily or mental functions, including, but not limited to, a child who is with his parent or other person responsible for his care either (i) during the manufacture or attempted manufacture of a Schedule I or II controlled substance, or (ii) during the unlawful sale of such substance by that child's parents or other person responsible for his care, where such manufacture, or attempted manufacture or unlawful sale would constitute a felony violation of § 18.2-248;

2. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care neglects or refuses to provide care necessary for his health; however, no child who in good faith is under treatment solely by spiritual means through prayer in accordance with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination shall for that reason alone be considered to be an abused or neglected child. Further, a decision by parents who have legal authority for the child or, in the absence of parents with legal authority for the child, any person with legal authority for the child who refuses a particular medical treatment for a child with a life-threatening condition shall not be deemed a refusal to provide necessary care if (i) such decision is made jointly by the parents or other person with legal authority and the child; (ii) the child has reached 14 years of age and is sufficiently mature to have an informed opinion on the subject of his medical treatment; (iii) the parents or other person with legal authority and the child have considered alternative treatment options; and (iv) the parents or other person with legal authority and the child believe in good faith that such decision is in the child's best interest. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to limit the provisions of § 16.1-278.4;

3. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care abandons such child;

4. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care commits or allows to be committed any act of sexual exploitation or any sexual act upon a child in violation of the law;

5. Who is without parental care or guardianship caused by the unreasonable absence or the mental or physical incapacity of the child's parent, guardian, legal custodian, or other person standing in loco parentis;

6. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care creates a substantial risk of physical or mental injury by knowingly leaving the child alone in the same dwelling, including an apartment as defined in § 55.1-2000, with a person to whom the child is not related by blood or marriage and who the parent or other person responsible for his care knows has been convicted of an offense against a minor for which registration is required as a Tier III offender pursuant to § 9.1-902; or

7. Who has been identified as a victim of sex trafficking or severe forms of trafficking as defined in the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, 22 U.S.C. § 7102 et seq., and in the federal Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, 42 U.S.C. § 5101 et seq.

If a civil proceeding under this chapter is based solely on the parent having left the child at a hospital or emergency medical services agency, it shall be an affirmative defense that such parent safely delivered the child to a hospital that provides 24-hour emergency services or to an attended emergency medical services agency that employs emergency medical services personnel, within 44 30 days of the child's birth. For purposes of terminating parental rights pursuant to § 16.1-283 and placement for adoption, the court may find such a child is a neglected child upon the ground of abandonment.

"Adoptive home" means the place of residence of any natural person in which a child resides as a member of the household and in which he has been placed for the purposes of adoption or in which he

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59 has been legally adopted by another member of the household.

60 "Adult" means a person 18 years of age or older.

61 "Ancillary crime" or "ancillary charge" means any delinquent act committed by a juvenile as a part  
62 of the same act or transaction as, or that constitutes a part of a common scheme or plan with, a  
63 delinquent act that would be a felony if committed by an adult.

64 "Boot camp" means a short-term secure or nonsecure juvenile residential facility with highly  
65 structured components including, but not limited to, military style drill and ceremony, physical labor,  
66 education and rigid discipline, and no less than six months of intensive aftercare.

67 "Child," "juvenile," or "minor" means a person who is (i) younger than 18 years of age or (ii) for  
68 purposes of the Fostering Futures program set forth in Article 2 (§ 63.2-917 et seq.) of Chapter 9 of  
69 Title 63.2, younger than 21 years of age and meets the eligibility criteria set forth in § 63.2-919.

70 "Child in need of services" means (i) a child whose behavior, conduct or condition presents or results  
71 in a serious threat to the well-being and physical safety of the child or (ii) a child under the age of 14  
72 whose behavior, conduct or condition presents or results in a serious threat to the well-being and  
73 physical safety of another person; however, no child who in good faith is under treatment solely by  
74 spiritual means through prayer in accordance with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or  
75 religious denomination shall for that reason alone be considered to be a child in need of services, nor  
76 shall any child who habitually remains away from or habitually deserts or abandons his family as a  
77 result of what the court or the local child protective services unit determines to be incidents of physical,  
78 emotional or sexual abuse in the home be considered a child in need of services for that reason alone.

79 However, to find that a child falls within these provisions, (i) the conduct complained of must  
80 present a clear and substantial danger to the child's life or health or to the life or health of another  
81 person, (ii) the child or his family is in need of treatment, rehabilitation or services not presently being  
82 received, and (iii) the intervention of the court is essential to provide the treatment, rehabilitation or  
83 services needed by the child or his family.

84 "Child in need of supervision" means:

85 1. A child who, while subject to compulsory school attendance, is habitually and without justification  
86 absent from school, and (i) the child has been offered an adequate opportunity to receive the benefit of  
87 any and all educational services and programs that are required to be provided by law and which meet  
88 the child's particular educational needs, (ii) the school system from which the child is absent or other  
89 appropriate agency has made a reasonable effort to effect the child's regular attendance without success,  
90 and (iii) the school system has provided documentation that it has complied with the provisions of  
91 § 22.1-258; or

92 2. A child who, without reasonable cause and without the consent of his parent, lawful custodian or  
93 placement authority, remains away from or deserts or abandons his family or lawful custodian on more  
94 than one occasion or escapes or remains away without proper authority from a residential care facility in  
95 which he has been placed by the court, and (i) such conduct presents a clear and substantial danger to  
96 the child's life or health, (ii) the child or his family is in need of treatment, rehabilitation or services not  
97 presently being received, and (iii) the intervention of the court is essential to provide the treatment,  
98 rehabilitation or services needed by the child or his family.

99 "Child welfare agency" means a child-placing agency, child-caring institution or independent foster  
100 home as defined in § 63.2-100.

101 "The court" or the "juvenile court" or the "juvenile and domestic relations court" means the juvenile  
102 and domestic relations district court of each county or city.

103 "Delinquent act" means (i) an act designated a crime under the law of the Commonwealth, or an  
104 ordinance of any city, county, town, or service district, or under federal law, (ii) a violation of  
105 § 18.2-308.7, or (iii) a violation of a court order as provided for in § 16.1-292, but does not include an  
106 act other than a violation of § 18.2-308.7, which is otherwise lawful, but is designated a crime only if  
107 committed by a child.

108 "Delinquent child" means a child who has committed a delinquent act or an adult who has committed  
109 a delinquent act prior to his 18th birthday, except where the jurisdiction of the juvenile court has been  
110 terminated under the provisions of § 16.1-269.6.

111 "Department" means the Department of Juvenile Justice and "Director" means the administrative head  
112 in charge thereof or such of his assistants and subordinates as are designated by him to discharge the  
113 duties imposed upon him under this law.

114 "Driver's license" means any document issued under Chapter 3 (§ 46.2-300 et seq.) of Title 46.2, or  
115 the comparable law of another jurisdiction, authorizing the operation of a motor vehicle upon the  
116 highways.

117 "Family abuse" means any act involving violence, force, or threat that results in bodily injury or  
118 places one in reasonable apprehension of death, sexual assault, or bodily injury and that is committed by  
119 a person against such person's family or household member. Such act includes, but is not limited to, any  
120 forceful detention, stalking, criminal sexual assault in violation of Article 7 (§ 18.2-61 et seq.) of

Chapter 4 of Title 18.2, or any criminal offense that results in bodily injury or places one in reasonable apprehension of death, sexual assault, or bodily injury.

"Family or household member" means (i) the person's spouse, whether or not he or she resides in the same home with the person, (ii) the person's former spouse, whether or not he or she resides in the same home with the person, (iii) the person's parents, stepparents, children, stepchildren, brothers, sisters, half-brothers, half-sisters, grandparents and grandchildren, regardless of whether such persons reside in the same home with the person, (iv) the person's mother-in-law, father-in-law, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law who reside in the same home with the person, (v) any individual who has a child in common with the person, whether or not the person and that individual have been married or have resided together at any time, or (vi) any individual who cohabits or who, within the previous 12 months, cohabited with the person, and any children of either of them then residing in the same home with the person.

"Fictive kin" means persons who are not related to a child by blood or adoption but have an established relationship with the child or his family.

"Foster care services" means the provision of a full range of casework, treatment and community services for a planned period of time to a child who is abused or neglected as defined in § 63.2-100 or in need of services as defined in this section and his family when the child (i) has been identified as needing services to prevent or eliminate the need for foster care placement, (ii) has been placed through an agreement between the local board of social services or a public agency designated by the community policy and management team and the parents or guardians where legal custody remains with the parents or guardians, (iii) has been committed or entrusted to a local board of social services or child welfare agency, (iv) has been placed under the supervisory responsibility of the local board pursuant to § 16.1-293, or (v) is living with a relative participating in the Federal-Funded Kinship Guardianship Assistance program set forth in § 63.2-1305 and developed consistent with 42 U.S.C. § 673 or the State-Funded Kinship Guardianship Assistance program set forth in § 63.2-1306.

"Independent living arrangement" means placement of (i) a child at least 16 years of age who is in the custody of a local board or licensed child-placing agency by the local board or licensed child-placing agency or (ii) a child at least 16 years of age or a person between the ages of 18 and 21 who was committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice immediately prior to placement by the Department of Juvenile Justice, in a living arrangement in which such child or person does not have daily substitute parental supervision.

"Independent living services" means services and activities provided to a child in foster care 14 years of age or older and who has been committed or entrusted to a local board of social services, child welfare agency, or private child-placing agency. "Independent living services" may also mean services and activities provided to a person who (i) was in foster care on his 18th birthday and has not yet reached the age of 21 years; (ii) is between the ages of 18 and 21 and who, immediately prior to his commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice, was in the custody of a local board of social services; or (iii) is a child at least 16 years of age or a person between the ages of 18 and 21 who was committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice immediately prior to placement in an independent living arrangement. "Independent living services" includes counseling, education, housing, employment, and money management skills development and access to essential documents and other appropriate services to help children or persons prepare for self-sufficiency.

"Intake officer" means a juvenile probation officer appointed as such pursuant to the authority of this chapter.

"Jail" or "other facility designed for the detention of adults" means a local or regional correctional facility as defined in § 53.1-1, except those facilities utilized on a temporary basis as a court holding cell for a child incident to a court hearing or as a temporary lock-up room or ward incident to the transfer of a child to a juvenile facility.

"The judge" means the judge or the substitute judge of the juvenile and domestic relations district court of each county or city.

"This law" or "the law" means the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Law embraced in this chapter.

"Legal custody" means (i) a legal status created by court order which vests in a custodian the right to have physical custody of the child, to determine and redetermine where and with whom he shall live, the right and duty to protect, train and discipline him and to provide him with food, shelter, education and ordinary medical care, all subject to any residual parental rights and responsibilities or (ii) the legal status created by court order of joint custody as defined in § 20-107.2.

"Permanent foster care placement" means the place of residence in which a child resides and in which he has been placed pursuant to the provisions of §§ 63.2-900 and 63.2-908 with the expectation and agreement between the placing agency and the place of permanent foster care that the child shall remain in the placement until he reaches the age of majority unless modified by court order or unless

182 removed pursuant to § 16.1-251 or 63.2-1517. A permanent foster care placement may be a place of  
183 residence of any natural person or persons deemed appropriate to meet a child's needs on a long-term  
184 basis.

185 "Qualified individual" means a trained professional or licensed clinician who is not an employee of  
186 the local board of social services or licensed child-placing agency that placed the child in a qualified  
187 residential treatment program and is not affiliated with any placement setting in which children are  
188 placed by such local board of social services or licensed child-placing agency.

189 "Qualified residential treatment program" means a program that (i) provides 24-hour residential  
190 placement services for children in foster care; (ii) has adopted a trauma-informed treatment model that  
191 meets the clinical and other needs of children with serious emotional or behavioral disorders, including  
192 any clinical or other needs identified through assessments conducted pursuant to clause (viii) of this  
193 definition; (iii) employs registered or licensed nursing and other clinical staff who provide care, on site  
194 and within the scope of their practice, and are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; (iv) conducts  
195 outreach with the child's family members, including efforts to maintain connections between the child  
196 and his siblings and other family; documents and maintains records of such outreach efforts; and  
197 maintains contact information for any known biological family and fictive kin of the child; (v) whenever  
198 appropriate and in the best interest of the child, facilitates participation by family members in the child's  
199 treatment program before and after discharge and documents the manner in which such participation is  
200 facilitated; (vi) provides discharge planning and family-based aftercare support for at least six months  
201 after discharge; (vii) is licensed in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 671(a)(10) and accredited by an  
202 organization approved by the federal Secretary of Health and Human Services; and (viii) requires that  
203 any child placed in the program receive an assessment within 30 days of such placement by a qualified  
204 individual that (a) assesses the strengths and needs of the child using an age-appropriate, evidence-based,  
205 validated, and functional assessment tool approved by the Commissioner of Social Services; (b)  
206 identifies whether the needs of the child can be met through placement with a family member or in a  
207 foster home or, if not, in a placement setting authorized by 42 U.S.C. § 672(k)(2), including a qualified  
208 residential treatment program, that would provide the most effective and appropriate level of care for the  
209 child in the least restrictive environment and be consistent with the short-term and long-term goals  
210 established for the child in his foster care or permanency plan; (c) establishes a list of short-term and  
211 long-term mental and behavioral health goals for the child; and (d) is documented in a written report to  
212 be filed with the court prior to any hearing on the child's placement pursuant to § 16.1-281, 16.1-282,  
213 16.1-282.1, or 16.1-282.2.

214 "Residual parental rights and responsibilities" means all rights and responsibilities remaining with the  
215 parent after the transfer of legal custody or guardianship of the person, including but not limited to the  
216 right of visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation and the responsibility  
217 for support.

218 "Secure facility" or "detention home" means a local, regional or state public or private locked  
219 residential facility that has construction fixtures designed to prevent escape and to restrict the movement  
220 and activities of children held in lawful custody.

221 "Shelter care" means the temporary care of children in physically unrestricting facilities.

222 "State Board" means the State Board of Juvenile Justice.

223 "Status offender" means a child who commits an act prohibited by law which would not be criminal  
224 if committed by an adult.

225 "Status offense" means an act prohibited by law which would not be an offense if committed by an  
226 adult.

227 "Violent juvenile felony" means any of the delinquent acts enumerated in subsection B or C of  
228 § 16.1-269.1 when committed by a juvenile 14 years of age or older.

229 **§ 18.2-371. Causing or encouraging acts rendering children delinquent, abused, etc.; penalty;**  
230 **abandoned infant.**

231 Any person 18 years of age or older, including the parent of any child, who (i) willfully contributes  
232 to, encourages, or causes any act, omission, or condition that renders a child delinquent, in need of  
233 services, in need of supervision, or abused or neglected as defined in § 16.1-228 or (ii) engages in  
234 consensual sexual intercourse or anal intercourse with or performs cunnilingus, fellatio, or anilingus  
235 upon or by a child 15 or older not his spouse, child, or grandchild is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.  
236 This section shall not be construed as repealing, modifying, or in any way affecting §§ 18.2-18,  
237 18.2-19, 18.2-61, 18.2-63, and 18.2-347.

238 If the prosecution under this section is based solely on the accused parent having left the child at a  
239 hospital or emergency medical services agency, it shall be an affirmative defense to prosecution of a  
240 parent under this section that such parent safely delivered the child to a hospital that provides 24-hour  
241 emergency services or to an attended emergency medical services agency that employs emergency  
242 medical services personnel, within the first 44 30 days of the child's life. In order for the affirmative  
243 defense to apply, the child shall be delivered in a manner reasonably calculated to ensure the child's

safety.

**§ 18.2-371.1. Abuse and neglect of children; penalty; abandoned infant.**

A. Any parent, guardian, or other person responsible for the care of a child under the age of 18 who by willful act or willful omission or refusal to provide any necessary care for the child's health causes or permits serious injury to the life or health of such child is guilty of a Class 4 felony. For purposes of this subsection, "serious injury" includes but is not limited to (i) disfigurement, (ii) a fracture, (iii) a severe burn or laceration, (iv) mutilation, (v) maiming, (vi) forced ingestion of dangerous substances, and (vii) life-threatening internal injuries. For purposes of this subsection, "willful act or willful omission" includes operating or engaging in the conduct of a child welfare agency as defined in § 63.2-100 without first obtaining a license such person knows is required by Subtitle IV (§ 63.2-1700 et seq.) of Title 63.2 or after such license has been revoked or has expired and not been renewed.

B. 1. Any parent, guardian, or other person responsible for the care of a child under the age of 18 whose willful act or omission in the care of such child was so gross, wanton, and culpable as to show a reckless disregard for human life is guilty of a Class 6 felony.

2. If a prosecution under this subsection is based solely on the accused parent having left the child at a hospital or emergency medical services agency, it shall be an affirmative defense to prosecution of a parent under this subsection that such parent safely delivered the child to a hospital that provides 24-hour emergency services or to an attended emergency medical services agency that employs emergency medical services personnel; within the first 14 30 days of the child's life. In order for the affirmative defense to apply, the child shall be delivered in a manner reasonably calculated to ensure the child's safety.

C. Any parent, guardian, or other person having care, custody, or control of a minor child who in good faith is under treatment solely by spiritual means through prayer in accordance with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination shall not, for that reason alone, be considered in violation of this section.

**§ 40.1-103. Cruelty and injuries to children; penalty; abandoned infant.**

A. It shall be unlawful for any person employing or having the custody of any child willfully or negligently to cause or permit the life of such child to be endangered or the health of such child to be injured, or willfully or negligently to cause or permit such child to be placed in a situation that its life, health or morals may be endangered, or to cause or permit such child to be overworked, tortured, tormented, mutilated, beaten or cruelly treated. Any person violating this section is guilty of a Class 6 felony.

B. If a prosecution under this section is based solely on the accused parent having left the child at a hospital or emergency medical services agency, it shall be an affirmative defense to prosecution of a parent under this section that such parent safely delivered the child to a hospital that provides 24-hour emergency services or to an attended emergency medical services agency that employs emergency medical services personnel; within the first 14 30 days of the child's life. In order for the affirmative defense to apply, the child shall be delivered in a manner reasonably calculated to ensure the child's safety.

**§ 63.2-100. Definitions.**

As used in this title, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Abused or neglected child" means any child less than 18 years of age:

1. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care creates or inflicts, threatens to create or inflict, or allows to be created or inflicted upon such child a physical or mental injury by other than accidental means, or creates a substantial risk of death, disfigurement, or impairment of bodily or mental functions, including, but not limited to, a child who is with his parent or other person responsible for his care either (i) during the manufacture or attempted manufacture of a Schedule I or II controlled substance, or (ii) during the unlawful sale of such substance by that child's parents or other person responsible for his care, where such manufacture, or attempted manufacture or unlawful sale would constitute a felony violation of § 18.2-248;

2. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care neglects or refuses to provide care necessary for his health. However, no child who in good faith is under treatment solely by spiritual means through prayer in accordance with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination shall for that reason alone be considered to be an abused or neglected child. Further, a decision by parents who have legal authority for the child or, in the absence of parents with legal authority for the child, any person with legal authority for the child, who refuses a particular medical treatment for a child with a life-threatening condition shall not be deemed a refusal to provide necessary care if (i) such decision is made jointly by the parents or other person with legal authority and the child; (ii) the child has reached 14 years of age and is sufficiently mature to have an informed opinion on the subject of his medical treatment; (iii) the parents or other person with legal authority and the child have considered alternative treatment options; and (iv) the parents or other person with legal authority and the

child believe in good faith that such decision is in the child's best interest. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to limit the provisions of § 16.1-278.4;

3. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care abandons such child;

4. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care commits or allows to be committed any act of sexual exploitation or any sexual act upon a child in violation of the law;

5. Who is without parental care or guardianship caused by the unreasonable absence or the mental or physical incapacity of the child's parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person standing in loco parentis;

6. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care creates a substantial risk of physical or mental injury by knowingly leaving the child alone in the same dwelling, including an apartment as defined in § 55.1-2000, with a person to whom the child is not related by blood or marriage and who the parent or other person responsible for his care knows has been convicted of an offense against a minor for which registration is required as a Tier III offender pursuant to § 9.1-902; or

7. Who has been identified as a victim of sex trafficking or severe forms of trafficking as defined in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, 22 U.S.C § 7102 et seq., and in the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, 42 U.S.C. § 5101 et seq.

If a civil proceeding under this title is based solely on the parent having left the child at a hospital or emergency medical services agency, it shall be an affirmative defense that such parent safely delivered the child to a hospital that provides 24-hour emergency services or to an attended emergency medical services agency that employs emergency medical services providers; within 14 30days of the child's birth. For purposes of terminating parental rights pursuant to § 16.1-283 and placement for adoption, the court may find such a child is a neglected child upon the ground of abandonment.

"Adoptive home" means any family home selected and approved by a parent, local board or a licensed child-placing agency for the placement of a child with the intent of adoption.

"Adoptive placement" means arranging for the care of a child who is in the custody of a child-placing agency in an approved home for the purpose of adoption.

"Adult abuse" means the willful infliction of physical pain, injury or mental anguish or unreasonable confinement of an adult as defined in § 63.2-1603.

"Adult day care center" means any facility that is either operated for profit or that desires licensure and that provides supplementary care and protection during only a part of the day to four or more aged, infirm or disabled adults who reside elsewhere, except (i) a facility or portion of a facility licensed by the State Board of Health or the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, and (ii) the home or residence of an individual who cares for only persons related to him by blood or marriage. Included in this definition are any two or more places, establishments or institutions owned, operated or controlled by a single entity and providing such supplementary care and protection to a combined total of four or more aged, infirm or disabled adults.

"Adult exploitation" means the illegal, unauthorized, improper, or fraudulent use of an adult as defined in § 63.2-1603 or his funds, property, benefits, resources, or other assets for another's profit, benefit, or advantage, including a caregiver or person serving in a fiduciary capacity, or that deprives the adult of his rightful use of or access to such funds, property, benefits, resources, or other assets. "Adult exploitation" includes (i) an intentional breach of a fiduciary obligation to an adult to his detriment or an intentional failure to use the financial resources of an adult in a manner that results in neglect of such adult; (ii) the acquisition, possession, or control of an adult's financial resources or property through the use of undue influence, coercion, or duress; and (iii) forcing or coercing an adult to pay for goods or services or perform services against his will for another's profit, benefit, or advantage if the adult did not agree, or was tricked, misled, or defrauded into agreeing, to pay for such goods or services or to perform such services.

"Adult foster care" means room and board, supervision, and special services to an adult who has a physical or mental condition. Adult foster care may be provided by a single provider for up to three adults. "Adult foster care" does not include services or support provided to individuals through the Fostering Futures program set forth in Article 2 (§ 63.2-917 et seq.) of Chapter 9.

"Adult neglect" means that an adult as defined in § 63.2-1603 is living under such circumstances that he is not able to provide for himself or is not being provided services necessary to maintain his physical and mental health and that the failure to receive such necessary services impairs or threatens to impair his well-being. However, no adult shall be considered neglected solely on the basis that such adult is receiving religious nonmedical treatment or religious nonmedical nursing care in lieu of medical care, provided that such treatment or care is performed in good faith and in accordance with the religious practices of the adult and there is a written or oral expression of consent by that adult.

"Adult protective services" means services provided by the local department that are necessary to protect an adult as defined in § 63.2-1603 from abuse, neglect or exploitation.

"Assisted living care" means a level of service provided by an assisted living facility for adults who may have physical or mental impairments and require at least a moderate level of assistance with

activities of daily living.

"Assisted living facility" means any congregate residential setting that provides or coordinates personal and health care services, 24-hour supervision, and assistance (scheduled and unscheduled) for the maintenance or care of four or more adults who are aged, infirm or disabled and who are cared for in a primarily residential setting, except (i) a facility or portion of a facility licensed by the State Board of Health or the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, but including any portion of such facility not so licensed; (ii) the home or residence of an individual who cares for or maintains only persons related to him by blood or marriage; (iii) a facility or portion of a facility serving infirm or disabled persons between the ages of 18 and 21, or 22 if enrolled in an educational program for the handicapped pursuant to § 22.1-214, when such facility is licensed by the Department as a children's residential facility under Chapter 17 (§ 63.2-1700 et seq.), but including any portion of the facility not so licensed; and (iv) any housing project for persons 62 years of age or older or the disabled that provides no more than basic coordination of care services and is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, or by the Virginia Housing Development Authority. Included in this definition are any two or more places, establishments or institutions owned or operated by a single entity and providing maintenance or care to a combined total of four or more aged, infirm or disabled adults. Maintenance or care means the protection, general supervision and oversight of the physical and mental well-being of an aged, infirm or disabled individual.

"Auxiliary grants" means cash payments made to certain aged, blind or disabled individuals who receive benefits under Title XVI of the Social Security Act, as amended, or would be eligible to receive these benefits except for excess income.

"Birth family" or "birth sibling" means the child's biological family or biological sibling.

"Birth parent" means the child's biological parent and, for purposes of adoptive placement, means parent(s) by previous adoption.

"Board" means the State Board of Social Services.

"Child" means any natural person who is (i) under 18 years of age or (ii) for purposes of the Fostering Futures program set forth in Article 2 (§ 63.2-917 et seq.) of Chapter 9, under 21 years of age and meets the eligibility criteria set forth in § 63.2-919.

"Child-placing agency" means (i) any person who places children in foster homes, adoptive homes or independent living arrangements pursuant to § 63.2-1819, (ii) a local board that places children in foster homes or adoptive homes pursuant to §§ 63.2-900, 63.2-903, and 63.2-1221, or (iii) an entity that assists parents with the process of delegating parental and legal custodial powers of their children pursuant to Chapter 10 (§ 20-166 et seq.) of Title 20. "Child-placing agency" does not include the persons to whom such parental or legal custodial powers are delegated pursuant to Chapter 10 (§ 20-166 et seq.) of Title 20. Officers, employees, or agents of the Commonwealth, or any locality acting within the scope of their authority as such, who serve as or maintain a child-placing agency, shall not be required to be licensed.

"Child-protective services" means the identification, receipt and immediate response to complaints and reports of alleged child abuse or neglect for children under 18 years of age. It also includes assessment, and arranging for and providing necessary protective and rehabilitative services for a child and his family when the child has been found to have been abused or neglected or is at risk of being abused or neglected.

"Child support services" means any civil, criminal or administrative action taken by the Division of Child Support Enforcement to locate parents; establish paternity; and establish, modify, enforce, or collect child support, or child and spousal support.

"Child-welfare agency" means a child-placing agency, children's residential facility, or independent foster home.

"Children's residential facility" means any facility, child-caring institution, or group home that is maintained for the purpose of receiving children separated from their parents or guardians for full-time care, maintenance, protection and guidance, or for the purpose of providing independent living services to persons between 18 and 21 years of age who are in the process of transitioning out of foster care. Children's residential facility shall not include:

1. A licensed or accredited educational institution whose pupils, in the ordinary course of events, return annually to the homes of their parents or guardians for not less than two months of summer vacation;

2. An establishment required to be licensed as a summer camp by § 35.1-18; and

3. A licensed or accredited hospital legally maintained as such.

"Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Department, his designee or authorized representative.

"Department" means the State Department of Social Services.

"Department of Health and Human Services" means the Department of Health and Human Services

428 of the United States government or any department or agency thereof that may hereafter be designated  
429 as the agency to administer the Social Security Act, as amended.

430 "Disposable income" means that part of the income due and payable of any individual remaining  
431 after the deduction of any amount required by law to be withheld.

432 "Energy assistance" means benefits to assist low-income households with their home heating and  
433 cooling needs, including, but not limited to, purchase of materials or substances used for home heating,  
434 repair or replacement of heating equipment, emergency intervention in no-heat situations, purchase or  
435 repair of cooling equipment, and payment of electric bills to operate cooling equipment, in accordance  
436 with § 63.2-805, or provided under the Virginia Energy Assistance Program established pursuant to the  
437 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (Title XXVI of Public Law 97-35), as amended.

438 "Family and permanency team" means the group of individuals assembled by the local department to  
439 assist with determining planning and placement options for a child, which shall include, as appropriate,  
440 all biological relatives and fictive kin of the child, as well as any professionals who have served as a  
441 resource to the child or his family, such as teachers, medical or mental health providers, and clergy  
442 members. In the case of a child who is 14 years of age or older, the family and permanency team shall  
443 also include any members of the child's case planning team that were selected by the child in  
444 accordance with subsection A of § 16.1-281.

445 "Federal-Funded Kinship Guardianship Assistance program" means a program consistent with 42  
446 U.S.C. § 673 that provides, subject to a kinship guardianship assistance agreement developed in  
447 accordance with § 63.2-1305, payments to eligible individuals who have received custody of a child of  
448 whom they had been the foster parents.

449 "Fictive kin" means persons who are not related to a child by blood or adoption but have an  
450 established relationship with the child or his family.

451 "Foster care placement" means placement of a child through (i) an agreement between the parents or  
452 guardians and the local board where legal custody remains with the parents or guardians or (ii) an  
453 entrustment or commitment of the child to the local board or licensed child-placing agency. "Foster care  
454 placement" does not include placement of a child in accordance with a power of attorney pursuant to  
455 Chapter 10 (§ 20-166 et seq.) of Title 20.

456 "Foster home" means a residence approved by a child-placing agency or local board in which any  
457 child, other than a child by birth or adoption of such person or a child who is the subject of a power of  
458 attorney to delegate parental or legal custodial powers by his parents or legal custodian to the natural  
459 person who has been designated the child's legal guardian pursuant to Chapter 10 (§ 20-166 et seq.) of  
460 Title 20 and who exercises legal authority over the child on a continuous basis for at least 24 hours  
461 without compensation, resides as a member of the household.

462 "General relief" means money payments and other forms of relief made to those persons mentioned  
463 in § 63.2-802 in accordance with the regulations of the Board and reimbursable in accordance with §  
464 63.2-401.

465 "Independent foster home" means a private family home in which any child, other than a child by  
466 birth or adoption of such person, resides as a member of the household and has been placed therein  
467 independently of a child-placing agency except (i) a home in which are received only children related by  
468 birth or adoption of the person who maintains such home and children of personal friends of such  
469 person; (ii) a home in which is received a child or children committed under the provisions of  
470 subdivision A 4 of § 16.1-278.2, subdivision 6 of § 16.1-278.4, or subdivision A 13 of § 16.1-278.8;  
471 and (iii) a home in which are received only children who are the subject of a properly executed power  
472 of attorney pursuant to Chapter 10 (§ 20-166 et seq.) of Title 20.

473 "Independent living" means a planned program of services designed to assist a child age 16 and over  
474 and persons who are former foster care children or were formerly committed to the Department of  
475 Juvenile Justice and are between the ages of 18 and 21 in transitioning to self-sufficiency.

476 "Independent living arrangement" means placement of (i) a child at least 16 years of age who is in  
477 the custody of a local board or licensed child-placing agency by the local board or licensed child-placing  
478 agency or (ii) a child at least 16 years of age or a person between the ages of 18 and 21 who was  
479 committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice immediately prior to placement by the Department of  
480 Juvenile Justice, in a living arrangement in which such child or person does not have daily substitute  
481 parental supervision.

482 "Independent living services" means services and activities provided to a child in foster care 14 years  
483 of age or older who was committed or entrusted to a local board of social services, child welfare  
484 agency, or private child-placing agency. "Independent living services" may also mean services and  
485 activities provided to a person who (i) was in foster care on his 18th birthday and has not yet reached  
486 the age of 21 years; (ii) is between the ages of 18 and 21 and who, immediately prior to his  
487 commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice, was in the custody of a local board of social  
488 services; or (iii) is a child at least 16 years of age or a person between the ages of 18 and 21 who was  
489 committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice immediately prior to placement in an independent



living arrangement. Such services shall include counseling, education, housing, employment, and money management skills development, access to essential documents, and other appropriate services to help children or persons prepare for self-sufficiency.

"Independent physician" means a physician who is chosen by the resident of the assisted living facility and who has no financial interest in the assisted living facility, directly or indirectly, as an owner, officer, or employee or as an independent contractor with the residence.

"Intercountry placement" means the arrangement for the care of a child in an adoptive home or foster care placement into or out of the Commonwealth by a licensed child-placing agency, court, or other entity authorized to make such placements in accordance with the laws of the foreign country under which it operates.

"Interstate placement" means the arrangement for the care of a child in an adoptive home, foster care placement or in the home of the child's parent or with a relative or nonagency guardian, into or out of the Commonwealth, by a child-placing agency or court when the full legal right of the child's parent or nonagency guardian to plan for the child has been voluntarily terminated or limited or severed by the action of any court.

"Kinship care" means the full-time care, nurturing, and protection of children by relatives.

"Kinship guardian" means the adult relative of a child in a kinship guardianship established in accordance with § 63.2-1305 or 63.2-1306 who has been awarded custody of the child by the court after acting as the child's foster parent.

"Kinship guardianship" means a relationship established in accordance with § 63.2-1305 or 63.2-1306 between a child and an adult relative of the child who has formerly acted as the child's foster parent that is intended to be permanent and self-sustaining as evidenced by the transfer by the court to the adult relative of the child of the authority necessary to ensure the protection, education, care and control, and custody of the child and the authority for decision making for the child.

"Local board" means the local board of social services representing one or more counties or cities.

"Local department" means the local department of social services of any county or city in this Commonwealth.

"Local director" means the director or his designated representative of the local department of the city or county.

"Merit system plan" means those regulations adopted by the Board in the development and operation of a system of personnel administration meeting requirements of the federal Office of Personnel Management.

"Parental placement" means locating or effecting the placement of a child or the placing of a child in a family home by the child's parent or legal guardian for the purpose of foster care or adoption.

"Public assistance" means Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); auxiliary grants to the aged, blind and disabled; medical assistance; energy assistance; food stamps; employment services; child care; and general relief.

"Qualified assessor" means an entity contracting with the Department of Medical Assistance Services to perform nursing facility pre-admission screening or to complete the uniform assessment instrument for a home and community-based waiver program, including an independent physician contracting with the Department of Medical Assistance Services to complete the uniform assessment instrument for residents of assisted living facilities, or any hospital that has contracted with the Department of Medical Assistance Services to perform nursing facility pre-admission screenings.

"Qualified individual" means a trained professional or licensed clinician who is not an employee of the local board of social services or licensed child-placing agency that placed the child in a qualified residential treatment program and is not affiliated with any placement setting in which children are placed by such local board of social services or licensed child-placing agency.

"Qualified residential treatment program" means a program that (i) provides 24-hour residential placement services for children in foster care; (ii) has adopted a trauma-informed treatment model that meets the clinical and other needs of children with serious emotional or behavioral disorders, including any clinical or other needs identified through assessments conducted pursuant to clause (viii) of this definition; (iii) employs registered or licensed nursing and other clinical staff who provide care, on site and within the scope of their practice, and are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; (iv) conducts outreach with the child's family members, including efforts to maintain connections between the child and his siblings and other family; documents and maintains records of such outreach efforts; and maintains contact information for any known biological family and fictive kin of the child; (v) whenever appropriate and in the best interest of the child, facilitates participation by family members in the child's treatment program before and after discharge and documents the manner in which such participation is facilitated; (vi) provides discharge planning and family-based aftercare support for at least six months after discharge; (vii) is licensed in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 671(a)(10) and accredited by an organization approved by the federal Secretary of Health and Human Services; and (viii) requires that

any child placed in the program receive an assessment within 30 days of such placement by a qualified individual that (a) assesses the strengths and needs of the child using an age-appropriate, evidence-based, validated, and functional assessment tool approved by the Commissioner of Social Services; (b) identifies whether the needs of the child can be met through placement with a family member or in a foster home or, if not, in a placement setting authorized by 42 U.S.C. § 672(k)(2), including a qualified residential treatment program, that would provide the most effective and appropriate level of care for the child in the least restrictive environment and be consistent with the short-term and long-term goals established for the child in his foster care or permanency plan; (c) establishes a list of short-term and long-term mental and behavioral health goals for the child; and (d) is documented in a written report to be filed with the court prior to any hearing on the child's placement pursuant to § 16.1-281, 16.1-282, 16.1-282.1, or 16.1-282.2.

"Residential living care" means a level of service provided by an assisted living facility for adults who may have physical or mental impairments and require only minimal assistance with the activities of daily living. The definition of "residential living care" includes the services provided by independent living facilities that voluntarily become licensed.

"Sibling" means each of two or more children having one or more parents in common.

"Social services" means foster care, adoption, adoption assistance, child-protective services, domestic violence services, or any other services program implemented in accordance with regulations adopted by the Board. Social services also includes adult services pursuant to Article 4 (§ 51.5-144 et seq.) of Chapter 14 of Title 51.5 and adult protective services pursuant to Article 5 (§ 51.5-148) of Chapter 14 of Title 51.5 provided by local departments of social services in accordance with regulations and under the supervision of the Commissioner for Aging and Rehabilitative Services.

"Special order" means an order imposing an administrative sanction issued to any party licensed pursuant to this title by the Commissioner that has a stated duration of not more than 12 months. A special order shall be considered a case decision as defined in § 2.2-4001.

"State-Funded Kinship Guardianship Assistance program" means a program that provides payments to eligible individuals who have received custody of a relative child subject to a kinship guardianship assistance agreement developed in accordance with § 63.2-1306.

"Supervised independent living setting" means the residence of a person 18 years of age or older who is participating in the Fostering Futures program set forth in Article 2 (§ 63.2-917 et seq.) of Chapter 9 where supervision includes a monthly visit with a service worker or, when appropriate, contracted supervision. "Supervised independent living setting" does not include residential facilities or group homes.

"Temporary Assistance for Needy Families" or "TANF" means the program administered by the Department through which a relative can receive monthly cash assistance for the support of his eligible children.

"Temporary Assistance for Needy Families-Unemployed Parent" or "TANF-UP" means the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program for families in which both natural or adoptive parents of a child reside in the home and neither parent is exempt from Virginia Initiative for Education and Work (VIEW) participation under § 63.2-609.

"Title IV-E Foster Care" means a federal program authorized under §§ 472 and 473 of the Social Security Act, as amended, and administered by the Department through which foster care is provided on behalf of qualifying children.