



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 398

SENATE BILL NO. 1241

By Jackson, Rose

Substituted for: House Bill No. 1360

By Littleton, Farmer, Hardaway, Bricken

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36; Title 37 and Title 39, relative to child abuse.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-102(b)(1), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

(C) A person under eighteen (18) years of age witnesses either abuse of another child in the person's immediate family or household, or domestic abuse, as defined in § 36-3-601, of another member of the person's immediate family or household;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, Chapter 2, Part 4, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

Notwithstanding another law to the contrary, if a child has been removed from the custody of a parent or legal guardian due to a finding of abuse, as defined in § 37-1-102, and placed in foster care with the department or in the care of an agency as provided in § 37-2-403, then reunification with the parent must not occur unless the parent has achieved sufficient progress on the parent's permanency plan responsibilities to make reunification safe and the child has received any mental health counseling deemed necessary for reunification.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-2-403(a), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

(8) The permanency plan for a child in foster care as a result of abuse or neglect that includes as a permanency goal the return of the child to the parent must include in the parent's statement of responsibilities a requirement that the parent complete appropriate services to address domestic violence, if the reason for the child's placement in foster care included witnessing or being subjected to domestic abuse by the parent.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-5-105, is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

(18) By January 31, 2026, and each year semiannually thereafter, report to the chair of the judiciary committee of the senate, and the chairs of the committees of the house of representatives having jurisdiction over judiciary matters and matters related to children and family affairs, the number of children who were removed into foster care due to allegations of domestic abuse. The report must include information on the number of children who were returned home, the number of children who remained in the custody of the department, and other outcomes.

SECTION 5. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 16, 2025



RANDY McNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 5th day of May 2025



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR