

# SENATE BILL No. 1120

February 9, 2010, Introduced by Senator HUNTER and referred to the Committee on Families and Human Services.

A bill to amend 1939 PA 288, entitled "Probate code of 1939," by amending section 19b of chapter XIIIA (MCL 712A.19b), as amended by 2008 PA 199.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

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CHAPTER XIIIA

Sec. 19b. (1) Except as provided in subsection (4), if a child remains in foster care in the temporary custody of the court following a review hearing under section 19(3) of this chapter or a permanency planning hearing under section 19a of this chapter or if a child remains in the custody of a guardian or limited guardian, upon petition of the prosecuting attorney, whether or not the prosecuting attorney is representing or acting as legal consultant to the agency or any other party, or petition of the child,

1 guardian, custodian, concerned person as defined in subsection (6),  
2 agency, or children's ombudsman as authorized in section 7 of the  
3 children's ombudsman act, 1994 PA 204, MCL 722.927, the court shall  
4 hold a hearing to determine if the parental rights to a child  
5 should be terminated and, if all parental rights to the child are  
6 terminated, the child placed in permanent custody of the court. The  
7 court shall state on the record or in writing its findings of fact  
8 and conclusions of law with respect to whether or not parental  
9 rights should be terminated. The court shall issue an opinion or  
10 order regarding a petition for termination of parental rights  
11 within 70 days after the commencement of the initial hearing on the  
12 petition. The court's failure to issue an opinion within 70 days  
13 does not dismiss the petition.

14 (2) Not less than 14 days before a hearing to determine if the  
15 parental rights to a child should be terminated, written notice of  
16 the hearing shall be served upon all of the following:

17 (a) The agency. The agency shall advise the child of the  
18 hearing if the child is 11 years of age or older.

19 (b) The child's foster parent or custodian.

20 (c) The child's parents.

21 (d) If the child has a guardian, the child's guardian.

22 (e) If the child has a guardian ad litem, the child's guardian  
23 ad litem.

24 (f) If tribal affiliation has been determined, the Indian  
25 tribe's elected leader.

26 (g) The child's attorney and each party's attorney.

27 (h) If the child is 11 years of age or older, the child.

1 (i) The prosecutor.

2 (3) The court may terminate a parent's parental rights to a  
3 child if the court finds, by clear and convincing evidence, 1 or  
4 more of the following:

5 (a) The child has been deserted under ~~any~~**EITHER** of the  
6 following circumstances:

7 (i) The child's parent is unidentifiable, has deserted the  
8 child for 28 or more days, and has not sought custody of the child  
9 during that period. For the purposes of this section, a parent is  
10 unidentifiable if the parent's identity cannot be ascertained after  
11 reasonable efforts have been made to locate and identify the  
12 parent.

13 (ii) The child's parent has deserted the child for 91 or more  
14 days and has not sought custody of the child during that period.

15 ~~(iii) The child's parent voluntarily surrendered the child to an  
16 emergency service provider under chapter XII and did not petition  
17 the court to regain custody within 28 days after surrendering the  
18 child.~~

19 (b) The child or a sibling of the child has suffered physical  
20 injury or physical or sexual abuse under 1 or more of the following  
21 circumstances:

22 (i) The parent's act caused the physical injury or physical or  
23 sexual abuse and the court finds that there is a reasonable  
24 likelihood that the child will suffer from injury or abuse in the  
25 foreseeable future if placed in the parent's home.

26 (ii) The parent who had the opportunity to prevent the physical  
27 injury or physical or sexual abuse failed to do so and the court

1 finds that there is a reasonable likelihood that the child will  
2 suffer injury or abuse in the foreseeable future if placed in the  
3 parent's home.

4 (iii) A nonparent adult's act caused the physical injury or  
5 physical or sexual abuse and the court finds that there is a  
6 reasonable likelihood that the child will suffer from injury or  
7 abuse by the nonparent adult in the foreseeable future if placed in  
8 the parent's home.

9 (c) The parent was a respondent in a proceeding brought under  
10 this chapter, 182 or more days have elapsed since the issuance of  
11 an initial dispositional order, and the court, by clear and  
12 convincing evidence, finds either of the following:

13 (i) The conditions that led to the adjudication continue to  
14 exist and there is no reasonable likelihood that the conditions  
15 will be rectified within a reasonable time considering the child's  
16 age.

17 (ii) Other conditions exist that cause the child to come within  
18 the court's jurisdiction, the parent has received recommendations  
19 to rectify those conditions, the conditions have not been rectified  
20 by the parent after the parent has received notice and a hearing  
21 and has been given a reasonable opportunity to rectify the  
22 conditions, and there is no reasonable likelihood that the  
23 conditions will be rectified within a reasonable time considering  
24 the child's age.

25 (d) The child's parent has placed the child in a limited  
26 guardianship under section 5205 of the estates and protected  
27 individuals code, 1998 PA 386, MCL 700.5205, and has substantially

1 failed, without good cause, to comply with a limited guardianship  
2 placement plan described in section 5205 of the estates and  
3 protected individuals code, 1998 PA 386, MCL 700.5205, regarding  
4 the child to the extent that the noncompliance has resulted in a  
5 disruption of the parent-child relationship.

6 (e) The child has a guardian under the estates and protected  
7 individuals code, 1998 PA 386, MCL 700.1101 to 700.8102, and the  
8 parent has substantially failed, without good cause, to comply with  
9 a court-structured plan described in section 5207 or 5209 of the  
10 estates and protected individuals code, 1998 PA 386, MCL 700.5207  
11 and 700.5209, regarding the child to the extent that the  
12 noncompliance has resulted in a disruption of the parent-child  
13 relationship.

14 (f) The child has a guardian under the estates and protected  
15 individuals code, 1998 PA 386, MCL 700.1101 to 700.8102, and both  
16 of the following have occurred:

17 (i) The parent, having the ability to support or assist in  
18 supporting the minor, has failed or neglected, without good cause,  
19 to provide regular and substantial support for the minor for a  
20 period of 2 years or more before the filing of the petition or, if  
21 a support order has been entered, has failed to substantially  
22 comply with the order for a period of 2 years or more before the  
23 filing of the petition.

24 (ii) The parent, having the ability to visit, contact, or  
25 communicate with the minor, has regularly and substantially failed  
26 or neglected, without good cause, to do so for a period of 2 years  
27 or more before the filing of the petition.

1 (g) The parent, without regard to intent, fails to provide  
2 proper care or custody for the child and there is no reasonable  
3 expectation that the parent will be able to provide proper care and  
4 custody within a reasonable time considering the child's age.

5 (h) The parent is imprisoned for such a period that the child  
6 will be deprived of a normal home for a period exceeding 2 years,  
7 and the parent has not provided for the child's proper care and  
8 custody, and there is no reasonable expectation that the parent  
9 will be able to provide proper care and custody within a reasonable  
10 time considering the child's age.

11 (i) Parental rights to 1 or more siblings of the child have  
12 been terminated due to serious and chronic neglect or physical or  
13 sexual abuse, and prior attempts to rehabilitate the parents have  
14 been unsuccessful.

15 (j) There is a reasonable likelihood, based on the conduct or  
16 capacity of the child's parent, that the child will be harmed if he  
17 or she is returned to the home of the parent.

18 (k) The parent abused the child or a sibling of the child and  
19 the abuse included 1 or more of the following:

20 (i) Abandonment of a young child.

21 (ii) Criminal sexual conduct involving penetration, attempted  
22 penetration, or assault with intent to penetrate.

23 (iii) Battering, torture, or other severe physical abuse.

24 (iv) Loss or serious impairment of an organ or limb.

25 (v) Life threatening injury.

26 (vi) Murder or attempted murder.

27 (vii) Voluntary manslaughter.

1           (viii) Aiding and abetting, attempting to commit, conspiring to  
2 commit, or soliciting murder or voluntary manslaughter.

3           (l) The parent's rights to another child were terminated as a  
4 result of proceedings under section 2(b) of this chapter or a  
5 similar law of another state.

6           (m) The parent's rights to another child were voluntarily  
7 terminated following the initiation of proceedings under section  
8 2(b) of this chapter or a similar law of another state.

9           (n) The parent is convicted of 1 or more of the following, and  
10 the court determines that termination is in the child's best  
11 interests because continuing the parent-child relationship with the  
12 parent would be harmful to the child:

13           (i) A violation of section 316, 317, 520b, 520c, 520d, 520e, or  
14 520g of the Michigan penal code, 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.316, 750.317,  
15 750.520b, 750.520c, 750.520d, 750.520e, and 750.520g.

16           (ii) A violation of a criminal statute that includes as an  
17 element the use of force or the threat of force and that subjects  
18 the parent to sentencing under section 10, 11, or 12 of chapter IX  
19 of the code of criminal procedure, 1927 PA 175, MCL 769.10, 769.11,  
20 and 769.12.

21           (iii) A federal law or law of another state with provisions  
22 substantially similar to a crime or procedure listed or described  
23 in subparagraph (i) or (ii).

24           (4) If a petition to terminate the parental rights to a child  
25 is filed, the court may enter an order terminating parental rights  
26 under subsection (3) at the initial dispositional hearing. If a  
27 petition to terminate parental rights to a child is filed, the

1 court may suspend parenting time for a parent who is a subject of  
2 the petition.

3 (5) If the court finds that there are grounds for termination  
4 of parental rights and that termination of parental rights is in  
5 the child's best interests, the court shall order termination of  
6 parental rights and order that additional efforts for reunification  
7 of the child with the parent not be made.

8 (6) As used in this section, "concerned person" means a foster  
9 parent with whom the child is living or has lived who has specific  
10 knowledge of behavior by the parent constituting grounds for  
11 termination under subsection (3)(b) or (g) and who has contacted  
12 the family independence agency, the prosecuting attorney, the  
13 child's attorney, and the child's guardian ad litem, if any, and is  
14 satisfied that none of these persons intend to file a petition  
15 under this section.