

SENATE BILL No. 629

December 2, 2015, Introduced by Senators JONES, SCHMIDT, CASPERSON, HORN, GREEN, SCHUITMAKER, YOUNG, BOOHER and HANSEN and referred to the Committee on Families, Seniors and Human Services.

A bill to amend 1939 PA 288, entitled
"Probate code of 1939,"
by amending section 19b of chapter XIIA (MCL 712A.19b), as amended
by 2012 PA 386.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

CHAPTER XIIA

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, agency, or children's
2 ombudsman as authorized in section 7 of the children's ombudsman
3 act, 1994 PA 204, MCL 722.927, the court shall hold a hearing to
4 determine if the parental rights to a child should be terminated
5 and, if all parental rights to the child are terminated, the child
6 placed in permanent custody of the court. The court shall state on
7 the record or in writing its findings of fact and conclusions of
8 law with respect to whether or not parental rights should be
9 terminated. The court shall issue an opinion or order regarding a
10 petition for termination of parental rights within 70 days after
11 the commencement of the initial hearing on the petition. The
12 court's failure to issue an opinion within 70 days does not dismiss
13 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 either of the following
6 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 (b) The child or a sibling of the child has suffered physical
16 injury or physical or sexual abuse under 1 or more of the following
17 circumstances:

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

22 (ii) The parent who had the opportunity to prevent the
23 physical injury or physical or sexual abuse failed to do so and the
24 court finds that there is a reasonable likelihood that the child
25 will suffer injury or abuse in the foreseeable future if placed in
26 the parent's home.

27 (iii) A nonparent adult's act caused the physical injury or

1 physical or sexual abuse and the court finds that there is a
2 reasonable likelihood that the child will suffer from injury or
3 abuse by the nonparent adult in the foreseeable future if placed in
4 the parent's home.

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

9 (i) The conditions that led to the adjudication continue to
10 exist and there is no reasonable likelihood that the conditions
11 will be rectified within a reasonable time considering the child's
12 age.

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

21 (d) The child's parent has placed the child in a limited
22 guardianship under section 5205 of the estates and protected
23 individuals code, 1998 PA 386, MCL 700.5205, and has substantially
24 failed, without good cause, to comply with a limited guardianship
25 placement plan described in section 5205 of the estates and
26 protected individuals code, 1998 PA 386, MCL 700.5205, regarding
27 the child to the extent that the noncompliance has resulted in a

1 disruption of the parent-child relationship.

2 (e) The child has a guardian under the estates and protected
3 individuals code, 1998 PA 386, MCL 700.1101 to 700.8206, and the
4 parent has substantially failed, without good cause, to comply with
5 a court-structured plan described in section 5207 or 5209 of the
6 estates and protected individuals code, 1998 PA 386, MCL 700.5207
7 and 700.5209, regarding the child to the extent that the
8 noncompliance has resulted in a disruption of the parent-child
9 relationship.

10 (f) The child has a guardian under the estates and protected
11 individuals code, 1998 PA 386, MCL 700.1101 to 700.8206, and both
12 of the following have occurred:

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

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

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

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

7 (i) Parental rights to 1 or more siblings of the child have
8 been terminated due to serious and chronic neglect or physical or
9 sexual abuse, and prior attempts to rehabilitate the parents have
10 been unsuccessful.

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

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

16 (i) Abandonment of a young child.

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

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

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

21 (v) Life-threatening injury.

22 (vi) Murder or attempted murder.

23 (vii) Voluntary manslaughter.

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

26 (ix) Sexual abuse as that term is defined in section 2 of the
27 child protection law, 1975 PA 238, MCL 722.622.

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

4 (m) The parent's rights to another child were voluntarily
5 terminated following the initiation of proceedings under section
6 2(b) of this chapter or a similar law of another state and the
7 proceeding involved abuse that included 1 or more of the following:

8 (i) Abandonment of a young child.

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

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

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

13 (v) Life-threatening injury.

14 (vi) Murder or attempted murder.

15 (vii) Voluntary manslaughter.

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

18 (ix) Sexual abuse as that term is defined in section 2 of the
19 child protection law, 1975 PA 238, MCL 722.622.

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

24 (i) A violation of section 316, 317, 520b, 520c, 520d, 520e,
25 or 520g of the Michigan penal code, 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.316,
26 750.317, 750.520b, 750.520c, 750.520d, 750.520e, and 750.520g.

27 (ii) A violation of a criminal statute that includes as an

1 element the use of force or the threat of force and that subjects
2 the parent to sentencing under section 10, 11, or 12 of chapter IX
3 of the code of criminal procedure, 1927 PA 175, MCL 769.10, 769.11,
4 and 769.12.

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

8 (O) THE PARENT HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF OR FOUND IN A FACT-
9 FINDING HEARING TO HAVE COMMITTED CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT AND THAT
10 CONDUCT RESULTED IN THE CHILD BEING CONCEIVED.

11 (4) If a petition to terminate the parental rights to a child
12 is filed, the court may enter an order terminating parental rights
13 under subsection (3) at the initial dispositional hearing. If a
14 petition to terminate parental rights to a child is filed, the
15 court may suspend parenting time for a parent who is a subject of
16 the petition.

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

22 (6) As used in this section, "concerned person" means a foster
23 parent with whom the child is living or has lived who has specific
24 knowledge of behavior by the parent constituting grounds for
25 termination under subsection (3)(b) or (g) and who has contacted
26 the department, the prosecuting attorney, the child's attorney, and
27 the child's guardian ad litem, if any, and is satisfied that none

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1 of these persons intend to file a petition under this section.
<<CONCERNED PERSON INCLUDES A PARENT PETITIONING FOR TERMINATION OF
THE OTHER PARENT'S PARENTAL RIGHTS UNDER SUBSECTION (3)(O).>>

2 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 90 days
3 after the date it is enacted into law.