

This Document can be made available in alternative formats upon request

State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 4459

02/29/2024 Authored by Hanson, J., The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Children and Families Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to human services; the Department of Human Services child placement
1.3 and safety executive bill; amending Minnesota Statutes 2022, sections 256J.08,
1.4 subdivision 34a; 256J.28, subdivision 1; 256N.22, subdivision 10; 256N.24,
1.5 subdivision 10; 256N.26, subdivisions 15, 16, 18, 21, 22; 256P.05, by adding a
1.6 subdivision; 259.37, subdivision 2; 259.79, subdivision 1; 259.83, subdivision 4;
1.7 260C.178, subdivision 7; 260C.201, subdivision 1; 260C.202; 260C.209,
1.8 subdivision 1; 260C.212, subdivision 2; 260C.301, subdivision 1; 260C.515,
1.9 subdivision 4; 260C.607, subdivisions 1, 6; 260C.611; 260C.613, subdivision 1;
1.10 260C.615, subdivision 1; 260E.03, subdivision 23; 393.07, subdivision 10a;
1.11 Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, sections 119B.011, subdivision 15; 119B.16,
1.12 subdivisions 1a, 1c; 119B.161, subdivision 2; 124D.142, subdivision 2; 144.2252,
1.13 subdivision 2; 144.2253; 245A.03, subdivision 7; 256.046, subdivision 3; 256P.06,
1.14 subdivision 3; 259.83, subdivisions 1, 1b, 3a.

1.15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.16 ARTICLE 1
1.17 CHILD CARE

1.18 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 119B.16, subdivision 1a, is
1.19 amended to read:

1.20 Subd. 1a. Fair hearing allowed for providers. (a) This subdivision applies to providers
1.21 caring for children receiving child care assistance.

1.22 (b) A provider may request a fair hearing according to sections 256.045 and 256.046
1.23 only if a county agency or the commissioner:

1.24 (1) denies or revokes a provider's authorization, unless the action entitles the provider
1.25 to:

1.26 (i) an administrative review under section 119B.161; or

- 2.1 (ii) a contested case hearing or an administrative reconsideration under section 245.095;
- 2.2 (2) assigns responsibility for an overpayment to a provider under section 119B.11,
- 2.3 subdivision 2a;
- 2.4 (3) establishes an overpayment for failure to comply with section 119B.125, subdivision
- 2.5 6;
- 2.6 (4) seeks monetary recovery or recoupment under section 245E.02, subdivision 4,
- 2.7 paragraph (c), clause (2);
- 2.8 (5) ends a provider's rate differential under section 119B.13, subdivision 3a or 3b;
- 2.9 ~~(5)~~ (6) initiates an administrative fraud disqualification ~~hearing~~; or
- 2.10 ~~(6)~~ (7) issues a payment and the provider disagrees with the amount of the payment.
- 2.11 (c) A provider may request a fair hearing by submitting a written request to the
- 2.12 ~~Department of Human Services, Appeals Division~~ state agency. A provider's request must
- 2.13 be received by the ~~Appeals Division~~ state agency no later than 30 days after the date a
- 2.14 county or the commissioner ~~mails~~ sends the notice under subdivision 1c.
- 2.15 (d) The provider's appeal request must contain the following:
- 2.16 (1) each disputed item, the reason for the dispute, and, if applicable, an estimate of the
- 2.17 dollar amount involved for each disputed item;
- 2.18 (2) the computation the provider believes to be correct, if applicable;
- 2.19 (3) the statute or rule relied on for each disputed item; and
- 2.20 (4) the name, address, and telephone number of the person at the provider's place of
- 2.21 business with whom contact may be made regarding the appeal.

2.22 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2024.

2.23 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 119B.16, subdivision 1c, is amended

2.24 to read:

2.25 Subd. 1c. **Notice to providers.** (a) Before taking an action appealable under subdivision

2.26 1a, paragraph (b), clauses (1) to (5), a county agency or the commissioner must ~~mail~~ send

2.27 written notice to the provider against whom the action is being taken. Unless otherwise

2.28 specified under this chapter, chapter 245E, or Minnesota Rules, chapter 3400, a county

2.29 agency or the commissioner must ~~mail~~ send the written notice at least 15 calendar days

2.30 before the adverse action's effective date. If the appealable action is a denial of an

3.1 authorization under subdivision 1a, paragraph (b), clause (1), the provider's notice is effective
 3.2 on the date the notice is sent.

3.3 (b) The notice of adverse action in paragraph (a) shall state (1) the factual basis for the
 3.4 county agency or department's determination, (2) the action the county agency or department
 3.5 intends to take, (3) the dollar amount of the monetary recovery or recoupment, if known,
 3.6 and (4) the provider's right to appeal the department's proposed action.

3.7 (c) Notice requirements for administrative fraud disqualifications under subdivision 1a,
 3.8 paragraph (b), clause (6), are set forth in section 256.046, subdivision 3.

3.9 (d) A provider must receive notices that include:

3.10 (1) the right to appeal if a county issues a payment and the provider disagrees with the
 3.11 amount of the payment under subdivision 1a, paragraph (b), clause (7), at the time of
 3.12 authorization and reauthorization under section 119B.125, subdivision 1; and

3.13 (2) the amount of each payment when a payment is issued.

3.14 (e) A provider's request to appeal a payment amount must be received by the state agency
 3.15 no later than 30 days after the date a county sends the notice informing the provider of its
 3.16 payment amount.

3.17 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2024.

3.18 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 119B.161, subdivision 2, is amended
 3.19 to read:

3.20 Subd. 2. **Notice.** (a) The commissioner must ~~mail~~ send written notice to a provider within
 3.21 five days of suspending payment or denying or revoking the provider's authorization under
 3.22 subdivision 1.

3.23 (b) The notice must:

3.24 (1) state the provision under which the commissioner is denying, revoking, or suspending
 3.25 the provider's authorization or suspending payment to the provider;

3.26 (2) set forth the general allegations leading to the denial, revocation, or suspension of
 3.27 the provider's authorization. The notice need not disclose any specific information concerning
 3.28 an ongoing investigation;

3.29 (3) state that the denial, revocation, or suspension of the provider's authorization is for
 3.30 a temporary period and explain the circumstances under which the action expires; and

4.1 (4) inform the provider of the right to submit written evidence and argument for
4.2 consideration by the commissioner.

4.3 (c) Notwithstanding Minnesota Rules, part 3400.0185, if the commissioner suspends
4.4 payment to a provider under chapter 245E or denies or revokes a provider's authorization
4.5 under section 119B.13, subdivision 6, paragraph (d), clause (1) or (2), a county agency or
4.6 the commissioner must send notice of service authorization closure to each affected family.
4.7 The notice sent to an affected family is effective on the date the notice is created.

4.8 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2024.

4.9 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 124D.142, subdivision 2, is amended
4.10 to read:

4.11 Subd. 2. **System components.** (a) The standards-based voluntary quality rating and
4.12 improvement system includes:

4.13 (1) effective July 1, 2026, at least a one-star rating for all programs licensed under
4.14 Minnesota Rules, chapter 9502 or 9503, or Tribally licensed that do not opt out of the system
4.15 under paragraph (b) and that are not:

4.16 (i) the subject of a finding of fraud for which the program or individual is currently
4.17 serving a penalty or exclusion;

4.18 (ii) prohibited from receiving public funds under section 245.095, regardless of whether
4.19 the action is under appeal;

4.20 (iii) under revocation, suspension, temporary immediate suspension, or decertification,
4.21 or is operating under a conditional license, regardless of whether the action is under appeal;
4.22 or

4.23 (iv) the subject of suspended, denied, or terminated payments to a provider under section
4.24 119B.13, subdivision 6, paragraph (d), clause (1) or (2); 245E.02, subdivision 4, paragraph
4.25 (c), clause (4); or 256.98, subdivision 1, regardless of whether the action is under appeal;

4.26 (2) quality opportunities in order to improve the educational outcomes of children so
4.27 that they are ready for school;

4.28 (3) a framework based on the Minnesota quality rating system rating tool and a common
4.29 set of child outcome and program standards informed by evaluation results;

4.30 (4) a tool to increase the number of publicly funded and regulated early learning and
4.31 care services in both public and private market programs that are high quality;

5.1 (5) voluntary participation ensuring that if a program or provider chooses to participate,
 5.2 the program or provider will be rated and may receive public funding associated with the
 5.3 rating; and

5.4 (6) tracking progress toward statewide access to high-quality early learning and care
 5.5 programs, progress toward the number of low-income children whose parents can access
 5.6 quality programs, and progress toward increasing the number of children who are fully
 5.7 prepared to enter kindergarten.

5.8 (b) By July 1, 2026, the commissioner of human services shall establish a process by
 5.9 which a program may opt out of the rating under paragraph (a), clause (1). The commissioner
 5.10 shall consult with Tribes to develop a process for rating Tribally licensed programs that is
 5.11 consistent with the goal outlined in paragraph (a), clause (1).

5.12 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

5.13 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 256.046, subdivision 3, is amended
 5.14 to read:

5.15 Subd. 3. **Administrative disqualification of child care providers caring for children**
 5.16 **receiving child care assistance.** (a) The department shall pursue an administrative
 5.17 disqualification, if the child care provider is accused of committing an intentional program
 5.18 violation, in lieu of a criminal action when it has not been pursued. Intentional program
 5.19 violations include intentionally making false or misleading statements; intentionally
 5.20 misrepresenting, concealing, or withholding facts; and repeatedly and intentionally violating
 5.21 program regulations under chapters 119B and 245E. Intent may be proven by demonstrating
 5.22 a pattern of conduct that violates program rules under chapters 119B and 245E.

5.23 (b) To initiate an administrative disqualification, the commissioner must ~~mail~~ send
 5.24 written notice ~~by certified mail~~ using a signature-verified confirmed delivery method to the
 5.25 provider against whom the action is being taken. Unless otherwise specified under chapter
 5.26 119B or 245E or Minnesota Rules, chapter 3400, the commissioner must ~~mail~~ send the
 5.27 written notice at least 15 calendar days before the adverse action's effective date. The notice
 5.28 shall state (1) the factual basis for the agency's determination, (2) the action the agency
 5.29 intends to take, (3) the dollar amount of the monetary recovery or recoupment, if known,
 5.30 and (4) the provider's right to appeal the agency's proposed action.

5.31 (c) The provider may appeal an administrative disqualification by submitting a written
 5.32 request to the ~~Department of Human Services, Appeals Division~~ state agency. A provider's

6.1 request must be received by the ~~Appeals Division~~ state agency no later than 30 days after
6.2 the date the commissioner mails the notice.

6.3 (d) The provider's appeal request must contain the following:

6.4 (1) each disputed item, the reason for the dispute, and, if applicable, an estimate of the
6.5 dollar amount involved for each disputed item;

6.6 (2) the computation the provider believes to be correct, if applicable;

6.7 (3) the statute or rule relied on for each disputed item; and

6.8 (4) the name, address, and telephone number of the person at the provider's place of
6.9 business with whom contact may be made regarding the appeal.

6.10 (e) On appeal, the issuing agency bears the burden of proof to demonstrate by a
6.11 preponderance of the evidence that the provider committed an intentional program violation.

6.12 (f) The hearing is subject to the requirements of sections 256.045 and 256.0451. The
6.13 human services judge may combine a fair hearing and administrative disqualification hearing
6.14 into a single hearing if the factual issues arise out of the same or related circumstances and
6.15 the provider receives prior notice that the hearings will be combined.

6.16 (g) A provider found to have committed an intentional program violation and is
6.17 administratively disqualified ~~shall~~ must be disqualified, for a period of three years for the
6.18 first offense and permanently for any subsequent offense, from receiving any payments
6.19 from any child care program under chapter 119B.

6.20 (h) Unless a timely and proper appeal made under this section is received by the
6.21 department, the administrative determination of the department is final and binding.

6.22 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2024.

6.23 **ARTICLE 2**

6.24 **CHILD WELFARE**

6.25 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 245A.03, subdivision 7, is
6.26 amended to read:

6.27 Subd. 7. **Licensing moratorium.** (a) The commissioner shall not issue an initial license
6.28 for child foster care licensed under Minnesota Rules, parts 2960.3000 to 2960.3340 which
6.29 does not include child foster residence settings with residential program certifications for
6.30 compliance with the Family First Prevention Services Act under section 245A.25, subdivision
6.31 1, paragraph (a), or adult foster care licensed under Minnesota Rules, parts 9555.5105 to

7.1 9555.6265, under this chapter for a physical location that will not be the primary residence
7.2 of the license holder for the entire period of licensure. If a child foster residence setting that
7.3 was previously exempt from the licensing moratorium under this paragraph has its Family
7.4 First Prevention Services Act certification rescinded under section 245A.25, subdivision 9,
7.5 or if a family child foster care home or family adult foster care home license is issued during
7.6 this moratorium, and the license holder changes the license holder's primary residence away
7.7 from the physical location of the foster care license, the commissioner shall revoke the
7.8 license according to section 245A.07. The commissioner shall not issue an initial license
7.9 for a community residential setting licensed under chapter 245D. When approving an
7.10 exception under this paragraph, the commissioner shall consider the resource need
7.11 determination process in paragraph (h), the availability of foster care licensed beds in the
7.12 geographic area in which the licensee seeks to operate, the results of a person's choices
7.13 during their annual assessment and service plan review, and the recommendation of the
7.14 local county board. The determination by the commissioner is final and not subject to appeal.
7.15 Exceptions to the moratorium include:

7.16 (1) a license for a person in a foster care setting that is not the primary residence of the
7.17 license holder and where at least 80 percent of the residents are 55 years of age or older;

7.18 (2) foster care licenses replacing foster care licenses in existence on May 15, 2009, or
7.19 community residential setting licenses replacing adult foster care licenses in existence on
7.20 December 31, 2013, and determined to be needed by the commissioner under paragraph
7.21 (b);

7.22 (3) new foster care licenses or community residential setting licenses determined to be
7.23 needed by the commissioner under paragraph (b) for the closure of a nursing facility, ICF/DD,
7.24 or regional treatment center; restructuring of state-operated services that limits the capacity
7.25 of state-operated facilities; or allowing movement to the community for people who no
7.26 longer require the level of care provided in state-operated facilities as provided under section
7.27 256B.092, subdivision 13, or 256B.49, subdivision 24;

7.28 (4) new foster care licenses or community residential setting licenses determined to be
7.29 needed by the commissioner under paragraph (b) for persons requiring hospital-level care;
7.30 or

7.31 (5) new foster care licenses or community residential setting licenses for people receiving
7.32 customized living or 24-hour customized living services under the brain injury or community
7.33 access for disability inclusion waiver plans under section 256B.49 or elderly waiver plan
7.34 under chapter 256S and residing in the customized living setting for which a license is

8.1 required. A customized living service provider subject to this exception may rebut the
8.2 presumption that a license is required by seeking a reconsideration of the commissioner's
8.3 determination. The commissioner's disposition of a request for reconsideration is final and
8.4 not subject to appeal under chapter 14. The exception is available until December 31, 2023.
8.5 This exception is available when:

8.6 (i) the person's customized living services are provided in a customized living service
8.7 setting serving four or fewer people in a single-family home operational on or before June
8.8 30, 2021. Operational is defined in section 256B.49, subdivision 28;

8.9 (ii) the person's case manager provided the person with information about the choice of
8.10 service, service provider, and location of service, including in the person's home, to help
8.11 the person make an informed choice; and

8.12 (iii) the person's services provided in the licensed foster care or community residential
8.13 setting are less than or equal to the cost of the person's services delivered in the customized
8.14 living setting as determined by the lead agency.

8.15 (b) The commissioner shall determine the need for newly licensed foster care homes or
8.16 community residential settings as defined under this subdivision. As part of the determination,
8.17 the commissioner shall consider the availability of foster care capacity in the area in which
8.18 the licensee seeks to operate, and the recommendation of the local county board. The
8.19 determination by the commissioner must be final. A determination of need is not required
8.20 for a change in ownership at the same address.

8.21 (c) When an adult resident served by the program moves out of a foster home that is not
8.22 the primary residence of the license holder according to section 256B.49, subdivision 15,
8.23 paragraph (f), or the adult community residential setting, the county shall immediately
8.24 inform the Department of Human Services Licensing Division. The department may decrease
8.25 the statewide licensed capacity for adult foster care settings.

8.26 (d) Residential settings that would otherwise be subject to the decreased license capacity
8.27 established in paragraph (c) ~~shall~~ must be exempt if the license holder's beds are occupied
8.28 by residents whose primary diagnosis is mental illness and the license holder is certified
8.29 under the requirements in subdivision 6a or section 245D.33.

8.30 (e) A resource need determination process, managed at the state level, using the available
8.31 data required by section 144A.351, and other data and information ~~shall~~ must be used to
8.32 determine where the reduced capacity determined under section 256B.493 will be
8.33 implemented. The commissioner shall consult with the stakeholders described in section
8.34 144A.351, and employ a variety of methods to improve the state's capacity to meet the

9.1 informed decisions of those people who want to move out of corporate foster care or
9.2 community residential settings, long-term service needs within budgetary limits, including
9.3 seeking proposals from service providers or lead agencies to change service type, capacity,
9.4 or location to improve services, increase the independence of residents, and better meet
9.5 needs identified by the long-term services and supports reports and statewide data and
9.6 information.

9.7 (f) At the time of application and reapplication for licensure, the applicant and the license
9.8 holder that are subject to the moratorium or an exclusion established in paragraph (a) are
9.9 required to inform the commissioner whether the physical location where the foster care
9.10 will be provided is or will be the primary residence of the license holder for the entire period
9.11 of licensure. If the primary residence of the applicant or license holder changes, the applicant
9.12 or license holder must notify the commissioner immediately. The commissioner shall print
9.13 on the foster care license certificate whether or not the physical location is the primary
9.14 residence of the license holder.

9.15 (g) License holders of foster care homes identified under paragraph (f) that are not the
9.16 primary residence of the license holder and that also provide services in the foster care home
9.17 that are covered by a federally approved home and community-based services waiver, as
9.18 authorized under chapter 256S or section 256B.092 or 256B.49, must inform the human
9.19 services licensing division that the license holder provides or intends to provide these
9.20 waiver-funded services.

9.21 (h) The commissioner may adjust capacity to address needs identified in section
9.22 144A.351. Under this authority, the commissioner may approve new licensed settings or
9.23 delicense existing settings. Delicensing of settings will be accomplished through a process
9.24 identified in section 256B.493.

9.25 (i) The commissioner must notify a license holder when its corporate foster care or
9.26 community residential setting licensed beds are reduced under this section. The notice of
9.27 reduction of licensed beds must be in writing and delivered to the license holder by certified
9.28 mail or personal service. The notice must state why the licensed beds are reduced and must
9.29 inform the license holder of its right to request reconsideration by the commissioner. The
9.30 license holder's request for reconsideration must be in writing. If mailed, the request for
9.31 reconsideration must be postmarked and sent to the commissioner within 20 calendar days
9.32 after the license holder's receipt of the notice of reduction of licensed beds. If a request for
9.33 reconsideration is made by personal service, it must be received by the commissioner within
9.34 20 calendar days after the license holder's receipt of the notice of reduction of licensed beds.

10.1 (j) The commissioner shall not issue an initial license for children's residential treatment
10.2 services licensed under Minnesota Rules, parts 2960.0580 to 2960.0700, under this chapter
10.3 for a program that Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services would consider an institution
10.4 for mental diseases. Facilities that serve only private pay clients are exempt from the
10.5 moratorium described in this paragraph. The commissioner has the authority to manage
10.6 existing statewide capacity for children's residential treatment services subject to the
10.7 moratorium under this paragraph and may issue an initial license for such facilities if the
10.8 initial license would not increase the statewide capacity for children's residential treatment
10.9 services subject to the moratorium under this paragraph.

10.10 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 256N.22, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

10.11 Subd. 10. **Assigning a successor relative custodian for a child's Northstar kinship**
10.12 **assistance.** (a) In the event of the death or incapacity of the relative custodian, eligibility
10.13 for Northstar kinship assistance and title IV-E assistance, if applicable, is not affected if the
10.14 relative custodian is replaced by a successor named in the Northstar kinship assistance
10.15 benefit agreement. Northstar kinship assistance ~~shall~~ must be paid to a named successor
10.16 who is not the child's legal parent, biological parent or stepparent, or other adult living in
10.17 the home of the legal parent, biological parent, or stepparent.

10.18 (b) In order to receive Northstar kinship assistance, a named successor must:

10.19 (1) meet the background study requirements in subdivision 4;

10.20 (2) renegotiate the agreement consistent with section 256N.25, subdivision 2, including
10.21 cooperating with an assessment under section 256N.24;

10.22 (3) be ordered by the court to be the child's legal relative custodian in a modification
10.23 proceeding under section 260C.521, subdivision 2; and

10.24 (4) satisfy the requirements in this paragraph within one year of the relative custodian's
10.25 death or incapacity unless the commissioner certifies that the named successor made
10.26 reasonable attempts to satisfy the requirements within one year and failure to satisfy the
10.27 requirements was not the responsibility of the named successor.

10.28 (c) Payment of Northstar kinship assistance to the successor guardian may be temporarily
10.29 approved through the policies, procedures, requirements, and deadlines under section
10.30 256N.28, subdivision 2. Ongoing payment shall begin in the month when all the requirements
10.31 in paragraph (b) are satisfied.

10.32 (d) Continued payment of Northstar kinship assistance may occur in the event of the
10.33 death or incapacity of the relative custodian when:

11.1 (1) no successor has been named in the benefit agreement ~~when~~ or a named successor
11.2 is not able or willing to accept custody or guardianship of the child; and

11.3 (2) the commissioner gives written consent to an individual who is a guardian or custodian
11.4 appointed by a court for the child upon the death of both relative custodians in the case of
11.5 assignment of custody to two individuals, or the sole relative custodian in the case of
11.6 assignment of custody to one individual, unless the child is under the custody of a county,
11.7 tribal, or child-placing agency.

11.8 (e) Temporary assignment of Northstar kinship assistance may be approved for a
11.9 maximum of six consecutive months from the death or incapacity of the relative custodian
11.10 or custodians as provided in paragraph (a) and must adhere to the policies, procedures,
11.11 requirements, and deadlines under section 256N.28, subdivision 2, that are prescribed by
11.12 the commissioner. If a court has not appointed a permanent legal guardian or custodian
11.13 within six months, the Northstar kinship assistance must terminate and must not be resumed.

11.14 (f) Upon assignment of assistance payments under paragraphs (d) and (e), assistance
11.15 must be provided from funds other than title IV-E.

11.16 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 256N.24, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

11.17 Subd. 10. **Caregiver requests for reassessments.** (a) A caregiver may initiate a
11.18 reassessment request for an eligible child in writing to the financially responsible agency
11.19 or, if there is no financially responsible agency, the agency designated by the commissioner.
11.20 The written request must include the reason for the request and the name, address, and
11.21 contact information of the caregivers. The caregiver may request a reassessment if at least
11.22 six months have elapsed since any previous assessment or reassessment. For an eligible
11.23 foster child, a foster parent may request reassessment in less than six months with written
11.24 documentation that there have been significant changes in the child's needs that necessitate
11.25 an earlier reassessment.

11.26 (b) A caregiver may request a reassessment of an at-risk child for whom an adoption
11.27 assistance agreement has been executed if the caregiver has satisfied the commissioner with
11.28 written documentation from a qualified expert that the potential disability upon which
11.29 eligibility for the agreement was based has manifested itself, consistent with section 256N.25,
11.30 subdivision 3, paragraph (b).

11.31 (c) If the reassessment cannot be completed within 30 days of the caregiver's request,
11.32 the agency responsible for reassessment must notify the caregiver of the reason for the delay
11.33 and a reasonable estimate of when the reassessment can be completed.

12.1 (d) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in paragraph (a) or subdivision 9,
 12.2 when a Northstar kinship assistance agreement or adoption assistance agreement under
 12.3 section 256N.25 has been signed by all parties, no reassessment may be requested or
 12.4 conducted until the court finalizes the transfer of permanent legal and physical custody or
 12.5 finalizes the adoption, ~~or the assistance agreement expires according to section 256N.25,~~
 12.6 ~~subdivision 1.~~

12.7 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 256N.26, subdivision 15, is amended to read:

12.8 Subd. 15. **Payments.** (a) Payments to caregivers or youth under Northstar Care for
 12.9 Children must be made monthly. Consistent with section 256N.24, subdivision 13, the
 12.10 financially responsible agency must send the caregiver or youth the required written notice
 12.11 within 15 days of a completed assessment or reassessment.

12.12 (b) Unless paragraph (c) ~~or~~, (d), or (e) applies, the financially responsible agency shall
 12.13 pay foster parents directly for eligible children in foster care.

12.14 (c) When the legally responsible agency is different than the financially responsible
 12.15 agency, the legally responsible agency may make the payments to the caregiver or youth,
 12.16 provided payments are made on a timely basis. The financially responsible agency must
 12.17 pay the legally responsible agency on a timely basis. Caregivers must have access to the
 12.18 financially and legally responsible agencies' records of the transaction, consistent with the
 12.19 retention schedule for the payments.

12.20 (d) For eligible children in foster care, the financially responsible agency may pay the
 12.21 foster parent's payment for a licensed child-placing agency instead of paying the foster
 12.22 parents directly. The licensed child-placing agency must timely pay the foster parents and
 12.23 maintain records of the transaction. Caregivers must have access to the financially responsible
 12.24 agency's records of the transaction and the child-placing agency's records of the transaction,
 12.25 consistent with the retention schedule for the payments.

12.26 (e) If a foster youth aged 18 to 21 years old is placed in an unlicensed supervised
 12.27 independent living setting, payments must be made directly to the youth or to a vendor if
 12.28 the legally responsible agency determines it to be in the youth's best interests. If the legally
 12.29 responsible agency has reason to believe that the youth is being financially exploited or at
 12.30 risk of being financially exploited in the approved unlicensed supervised independent living
 12.31 setting, the legally responsible agency shall advise the financially responsible agency to
 12.32 make the payments to a vendor.

13.1 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 256N.26, subdivision 16, is amended to read:

13.2 Subd. 16. **Effect of benefit on other aid.** Payments received under this section must
13.3 not be considered as income for child care assistance under chapter 119B or any other
13.4 financial benefit. Consistent with section 256J.24, a child or youth receiving a maintenance
13.5 payment under Northstar Care for Children is excluded from any Minnesota family
13.6 investment program assistance unit.

13.7 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 256N.26, subdivision 18, is amended to read:

13.8 Subd. 18. **Overpayments.** The commissioner has the authority to collect any amount
13.9 of foster care payment, adoption assistance, or Northstar kinship assistance paid to a caregiver
13.10 or youth in excess of the payment due. Payments covered by this subdivision include basic
13.11 maintenance needs payments, supplemental difficulty of care payments, and reimbursement
13.12 of home and vehicle modifications under subdivision 10. Prior to any collection, the
13.13 commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall notify the caregiver or youth in writing,
13.14 including:

13.15 (1) the amount of the overpayment and an explanation of the cause of overpayment;

13.16 (2) clarification of the corrected amount;

13.17 (3) a statement of the legal authority for the decision;

13.18 (4) information about how the caregiver can correct the overpayment;

13.19 (5) if repayment is required, when the payment is due and a person to contact to review
13.20 a repayment plan;

13.21 (6) a statement that the caregiver or youth has a right to a fair hearing review by the
13.22 department; and

13.23 (7) the procedure for seeking a fair hearing review by the department.

13.24 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 256N.26, subdivision 21, is amended to read:

13.25 Subd. 21. **Correct and true information.** The caregiver or youth must be investigated
13.26 for fraud if the caregiver or youth reports information the caregiver or youth knows is untrue,
13.27 the caregiver or youth fails to notify the commissioner of changes that may affect eligibility,
13.28 or the agency administering the program receives relevant information that the caregiver
13.29 or youth did not report.

14.1 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 256N.26, subdivision 22, is amended to read:

14.2 Subd. 22. **Termination notice for caregiver or youth.** The agency that issues the
 14.3 maintenance payment shall provide the child's caregiver or youth with written notice of
 14.4 termination of payment. Termination notices must be sent at least 15 days before the final
 14.5 payment or, in the case of an unplanned termination, the notice is sent within three days of
 14.6 the end of the payment. The written notice must minimally include the following:

14.7 (1) the date payment will end;

14.8 (2) the reason payments will end and the event that is the basis to terminate payment;

14.9 (3) a statement that the ~~provider~~ caregiver or youth has a right to a fair hearing review
 14.10 by the department consistent with section 256.045, subdivision 3;

14.11 (4) the procedure to request a fair hearing; and

14.12 (5) the name, telephone number, and email address of a contact person at the agency.

14.13 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260C.178, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

14.14 Subd. 7. ~~Out-of-home placement Case plan.~~ (a) When the court has ordered the child
 14.15 into the care of a parent under subdivision 1, paragraph (c), clause (1), the child protective
 14.16 services plan under section 260E.26 must be filed within 30 days of the filing of the juvenile
 14.17 protection petition under section 260C.141, subdivision 1.

14.18 ~~(a)~~ (b) When the court orders the child into foster care under subdivision 1, paragraph
 14.19 (c), clause (2), and not into the care of a parent, an out-of-home placement plan required
 14.20 under section 260C.212 shall must be filed with the court within 30 days of the filing of a
 14.21 juvenile protection petition under section 260C.141, subdivision 1, when the court orders
 14.22 emergency removal of the child under this section, or filed with the petition if the petition
 14.23 is a review of a voluntary placement under section 260C.141, subdivision 2.

14.24 ~~(b)~~ (c) Upon the filing of the child protective services plan under section 260E.26 or
 14.25 out-of-home placement plan which that has been developed jointly with the parent and in
 14.26 consultation with others as required under section 260C.212, subdivision 1, the court may
 14.27 approve implementation of the plan by the responsible social services agency based on the
 14.28 allegations contained in the petition and any evaluations, examinations, or assessments
 14.29 conducted under subdivision 1, paragraph (4) (m). The court shall send written notice of the
 14.30 approval of the child protective services plan or out-of-home placement plan to all parties
 14.31 and the county attorney or may state such approval on the record at a hearing. A parent may
 14.32 agree to comply with the terms of the plan filed with the court.

15.1 ~~(e)~~ (d) The responsible social services agency shall make reasonable efforts to engage
 15.2 both parents of the child in case planning. The responsible social service agency shall report
 15.3 the results of its efforts to engage the child's parents in the child protective services plan or
 15.4 out-of-home placement plan filed with the court. The agency shall notify the court of the
 15.5 services it will provide or efforts it will attempt under the plan notwithstanding the parent's
 15.6 refusal to cooperate or disagreement with the services. The parent may ask the court to
 15.7 modify the plan to require different or additional services requested by the parent, but which
 15.8 the agency refused to provide. The court may approve the plan as presented by the agency
 15.9 or may modify the plan to require services requested by the parent. The court's approval
 15.10 ~~shall~~ must be based on the content of the petition.

15.11 ~~(d)~~ (e) Unless the parent agrees to comply with the terms of the child protective services
 15.12 plan or out-of-home placement plan, the court may not order a parent to comply with the
 15.13 provisions of the plan until the court finds the child is in need of protection or services and
 15.14 orders disposition under section 260C.201, subdivision 1. However, the court may find that
 15.15 the responsible social services agency has made reasonable efforts for reunification if the
 15.16 agency makes efforts to implement the terms of ~~an~~ the child protective services plan or
 15.17 out-of-home placement plan approved under this section.

15.18 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260C.201, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

15.19 Subdivision 1. **Dispositions.** (a) If the court finds that the child is in need of protection
 15.20 or services or neglected and in foster care, the court shall enter an order making any of the
 15.21 following dispositions of the case:

15.22 (1) place the child under the protective supervision of the responsible social services
 15.23 agency or child-placing agency in the home of a parent of the child under conditions
 15.24 prescribed by the court directed to the correction of the child's need for protection or services:

15.25 (i) the court may order the child into the home of a parent who does not otherwise have
 15.26 legal custody of the child, however, an order under this section does not confer legal custody
 15.27 on that parent;

15.28 (ii) if the court orders the child into the home of a father who is not adjudicated, the
 15.29 father must cooperate with paternity establishment proceedings regarding the child in the
 15.30 appropriate jurisdiction as one of the conditions prescribed by the court for the child to
 15.31 continue in the father's home; and

16.1 (iii) the court may order the child into the home of a noncustodial parent with conditions
16.2 and may also order both the noncustodial and the custodial parent to comply with the
16.3 requirements of a case plan under subdivision 2; or

16.4 (2) transfer legal custody to one of the following:

16.5 (i) a child-placing agency; or

16.6 (ii) the responsible social services agency. In making a foster care placement of a child
16.7 whose custody has been transferred under this subdivision, the agency shall make an
16.8 individualized determination of how the placement is in the child's best interests using the
16.9 placement consideration order for relatives and the best interest factors in section 260C.212,
16.10 subdivision 2, and may include a child colocated with a parent in a licensed residential
16.11 family-based substance use disorder treatment program under section 260C.190; or

16.12 (3) order a trial home visit without modifying the transfer of legal custody to the
16.13 responsible social services agency under clause (2). Trial home visit means the child is
16.14 returned to the care of the parent or guardian from whom the child was removed for a period
16.15 not to exceed six months. During the period of the trial home visit, the responsible social
16.16 services agency:

16.17 (i) shall continue to have legal custody of the child, which means that the agency may
16.18 see the child in the parent's home, at school, in a child care facility, or other setting as the
16.19 agency deems necessary and appropriate;

16.20 (ii) shall continue to have the ability to access information under section 260C.208;

16.21 (iii) shall continue to provide appropriate services to both the parent and the child during
16.22 the period of the trial home visit;

16.23 (iv) without previous court order or authorization, may terminate the trial home visit in
16.24 order to protect the child's health, safety, or welfare and may remove the child to foster care;

16.25 (v) shall advise the court and parties within three days of the termination of the trial
16.26 home visit when a visit is terminated by the responsible social services agency without a
16.27 court order; and

16.28 (vi) shall prepare a report for the court when the trial home visit is terminated whether
16.29 by the agency or court order that describes the child's circumstances during the trial home
16.30 visit and recommends appropriate orders, if any, for the court to enter to provide for the
16.31 child's safety and stability. In the event a trial home visit is terminated by the agency by
16.32 removing the child to foster care without prior court order or authorization, the court shall
16.33 conduct a hearing within ten days of receiving notice of the termination of the trial home

17.1 visit by the agency and shall order disposition under this subdivision or commence
 17.2 permanency proceedings under sections 260C.503 to 260C.515. The time period for the
 17.3 hearing may be extended by the court for good cause shown and if it is in the best interests
 17.4 of the child as long as the total time the child spends in foster care without a permanency
 17.5 hearing does not exceed 12 months; or

17.6 (4) if the child has been adjudicated as a child in need of protection or services because
 17.7 the child is in need of special services or care to treat or ameliorate a physical or mental
 17.8 disability or emotional disturbance as defined in section 245.4871, subdivision 15, the court
 17.9 may order the child's parent, guardian, or custodian to provide it. The court may order the
 17.10 child's health plan company to provide mental health services to the child. Section 62Q.535
 17.11 applies to an order for mental health services directed to the child's health plan company.
 17.12 If the health plan, parent, guardian, or custodian fails or is unable to provide this treatment
 17.13 or care, the court may order it provided. Absent specific written findings by the court that
 17.14 the child's disability is the result of abuse or neglect by the child's parent or guardian, the
 17.15 court shall not transfer legal custody of the child for the purpose of obtaining special
 17.16 treatment or care solely because the parent is unable to provide the treatment or care. If the
 17.17 court's order for mental health treatment is based on a diagnosis made by a treatment
 17.18 professional, the court may order that the diagnosing professional not provide the treatment
 17.19 to the child if it finds that such an order is in the child's best interests; or

17.20 ~~(5) if the court believes that the child has sufficient maturity and judgment and that it is~~
 17.21 ~~in the best interests of the child, the court may order a child 16 years old or older to be~~
 17.22 ~~allowed to live independently, either alone or with others as approved by the court under~~
 17.23 ~~supervision the court considers appropriate, if the county board, after consultation with the~~
 17.24 ~~court, has specifically authorized this dispositional alternative for a child.~~

17.25 (b) If the child was adjudicated in need of protection or services because the child is a
 17.26 runaway or habitual truant, the court may order any of the following dispositions in addition
 17.27 to or as alternatives to the dispositions authorized under paragraph (a):

17.28 (1) counsel the child or the child's parents, guardian, or custodian;

17.29 (2) place the child under the supervision of a probation officer or other suitable person
 17.30 in the child's own home under conditions prescribed by the court, including reasonable rules
 17.31 for the child's conduct and the conduct of the parents, guardian, or custodian, designed for
 17.32 the physical, mental, and moral well-being and behavior of the child;

17.33 (3) subject to the court's supervision, transfer legal custody of the child to one of the
 17.34 following:

18.1 (i) a reputable person of good moral character. No person may receive custody of two
18.2 or more unrelated children unless licensed to operate a residential program under sections
18.3 245A.01 to 245A.16; or

18.4 (ii) a county probation officer for placement in a group foster home established under
18.5 the direction of the juvenile court and licensed pursuant to section 241.021;

18.6 (4) require the child to pay a fine of up to \$100. The court shall order payment of the
18.7 fine in a manner that will not impose undue financial hardship upon the child;

18.8 (5) require the child to participate in a community service project;

18.9 (6) order the child to undergo a chemical dependency evaluation and, if warranted by
18.10 the evaluation, order participation by the child in a drug awareness program or an inpatient
18.11 or outpatient chemical dependency treatment program;

18.12 (7) if the court believes that it is in the best interests of the child or of public safety that
18.13 the child's driver's license or instruction permit be canceled, the court may order the
18.14 commissioner of public safety to cancel the child's license or permit for any period up to
18.15 the child's 18th birthday. If the child does not have a driver's license or permit, the court
18.16 may order a denial of driving privileges for any period up to the child's 18th birthday. The
18.17 court shall forward an order issued under this clause to the commissioner, who shall cancel
18.18 the license or permit or deny driving privileges without a hearing for the period specified
18.19 by the court. At any time before the expiration of the period of cancellation or denial, the
18.20 court may, for good cause, order the commissioner of public safety to allow the child to
18.21 apply for a license or permit, and the commissioner shall so authorize;

18.22 (8) order that the child's parent or legal guardian deliver the child to school at the
18.23 beginning of each school day for a period of time specified by the court; or

18.24 (9) require the child to perform any other activities or participate in any other treatment
18.25 programs deemed appropriate by the court.

18.26 To the extent practicable, the court shall enter a disposition order the same day it makes
18.27 a finding that a child is in need of protection or services or neglected and in foster care, but
18.28 in no event more than 15 days after the finding unless the court finds that the best interests
18.29 of the child will be served by granting a delay. If the child was under eight years of age at
18.30 the time the petition was filed, the disposition order must be entered within ten days of the
18.31 finding and the court may not grant a delay unless good cause is shown and the court finds
18.32 the best interests of the child will be served by the delay.

19.1 (c) If a child who is 14 years of age or older is adjudicated in need of protection or
 19.2 services because the child is a habitual truant and truancy procedures involving the child
 19.3 were previously dealt with by a school attendance review board or county attorney mediation
 19.4 program under section 260A.06 or 260A.07, the court shall order a cancellation or denial
 19.5 of driving privileges under paragraph (b), clause (7), for any period up to the child's 18th
 19.6 birthday.

19.7 (d) In the case of a child adjudicated in need of protection or services because the child
 19.8 has committed domestic abuse and been ordered excluded from the child's parent's home,
 19.9 the court shall dismiss jurisdiction if the court, at any time, finds the parent is able or willing
 19.10 to provide an alternative safe living arrangement for the child, as defined in Laws 1997,
 19.11 chapter 239, article 10, section 2.

19.12 (e) When a parent has complied with a case plan ordered under subdivision 6 and the
 19.13 child is in the care of the parent, the court may order the responsible social services agency
 19.14 to monitor the parent's continued ability to maintain the child safely in the home under such
 19.15 terms and conditions as the court determines appropriate under the circumstances.

19.16 Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260C.202, is amended to read:

19.17 **260C.202 COURT REVIEW OF ~~FOSTER CARE~~ DISPOSITION.**

19.18 **Subdivision 1. Court review for a child in the home of a parent under protective**
 19.19 **supervision. If the court orders a child into the home of a parent under the protective**
 19.20 **supervision of the responsible social services agency or child-placing agency under section**
 19.21 **260C.201, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clause (1), the court shall review the child protective**
 19.22 **services plan under section 260E.26 at least every 90 days. The court shall notify the parents**
 19.23 **of the provisions of sections 260C.503 to 260C.521, as required under juvenile court rules.**

19.24 **Subd. 2. Court review for a child placed in foster care.** (a) If the court orders a child
 19.25 placed in foster care, the court shall review the out-of-home placement plan and the child's
 19.26 placement at least every 90 days as required in juvenile court rules to determine whether
 19.27 continued out-of-home placement is necessary and appropriate or whether the child should
 19.28 be returned home.

19.29 (b) This review is not required if the court has returned the child home, ordered the child
 19.30 permanently placed away from the parent under sections 260C.503 to 260C.521, or
 19.31 terminated rights under section 260C.301. Court review for a child permanently placed
 19.32 away from a parent, including where the child is under guardianship of the commissioner,
 19.33 ~~shall be~~ is governed by section 260C.607.

20.1 (c) When a child is placed in a qualified residential treatment program setting as defined
20.2 in section 260C.007, subdivision 26d, the responsible social services agency must submit
20.3 evidence to the court as specified in section 260C.712.

20.4 ~~(b)~~ (d) No later than three months after the child's placement in foster care, the court
20.5 shall review agency efforts to search for and notify relatives pursuant to section 260C.221,
20.6 and order that the agency's efforts begin immediately, or continue, if the agency has failed
20.7 to perform, or has not adequately performed, the duties under that section. The court must
20.8 order the agency to continue to appropriately engage relatives who responded to the notice
20.9 under section 260C.221 in placement and case planning decisions and to consider relatives
20.10 for foster care placement consistent with section 260C.221. Notwithstanding a court's finding
20.11 that the agency has made reasonable efforts to search for and notify relatives under section
20.12 260C.221, the court may order the agency to continue making reasonable efforts to search
20.13 for, notify, engage, and consider relatives who came to the agency's attention after sending
20.14 the initial notice under section 260C.221.

20.15 ~~(e)~~ (e) The court shall review the out-of-home placement plan and may modify the plan
20.16 as provided under section 260C.201, subdivisions 6 and 7.

20.17 ~~(d)~~ (f) When the court transfers the custody of a child to a responsible social services
20.18 agency resulting in foster care or protective supervision with a noncustodial parent under
20.19 subdivision 1, the court shall notify the parents of the provisions of sections 260C.204 and
20.20 260C.503 to 260C.521, as required under juvenile court rules.

20.21 ~~(e)~~ (g) When a child remains in or returns to foster care pursuant to section 260C.451
20.22 and the court has jurisdiction pursuant to section 260C.193, subdivision 6, paragraph (c),
20.23 the court shall at least annually conduct the review required under section 260C.203.

20.24 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260C.209, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

20.25 Subdivision 1. **Subjects.** The responsible social services agency may have access to the
20.26 criminal history and history of child and adult maltreatment on the following individuals:

20.27 (1) a noncustodial parent or nonadjudicated parent who is being assessed for purposes
20.28 of providing day-to-day care of a child temporarily or permanently under section 260C.219
20.29 and any member of the parent's household who is over the age of 13 when there is a
20.30 reasonable cause to believe that the parent or household member over age 13 has a criminal
20.31 history or a history of maltreatment of a child or vulnerable adult ~~which~~ that would endanger
20.32 the child's health, safety, or welfare;

21.1 (2) an individual ~~whose suitability for relative placement under section 260C.221 is~~
 21.2 ~~being determined~~ and any member of the relative's individual's household who is over the
 21.3 age of 13 when:

21.4 ~~(i) the relative must be licensed for foster care; or~~

21.5 (i) the individual is being considered for relative placement under section 260C.221;

21.6 (ii) the background study is required under section 259.53, subdivision 2; or

21.7 ~~(iii) the agency or the commissioner has reasonable cause to believe the relative or~~

21.8 ~~household member over the age of 13 has a criminal history which would not make a petition~~

21.9 ~~to transfer of permanent legal and physical custody to the relative under~~ has been filed

21.10 according to section 260C.515, subdivision 4, in the child's best interest paragraph (d), and

21.11 the relative is not pursuing Northstar kinship assistance eligibility for the child under chapter

21.12 256N; and

21.13 (3) a parent, following an out-of-home placement, when the responsible social services
 21.14 agency has reasonable cause to believe that the parent has been convicted of a crime directly
 21.15 related to the parent's capacity to maintain the child's health, safety, or welfare or the parent
 21.16 is the subject of an open investigation of, or has been the subject of a substantiated allegation
 21.17 of, child or vulnerable-adult maltreatment within the past ten years.

21.18 "Reasonable cause" means that the agency has received information or a report from the
 21.19 subject or a third person that creates an articulable suspicion that the individual has a history
 21.20 that may pose a risk to the health, safety, or welfare of the child. The information or report
 21.21 must be specific to the potential subject of the background check and ~~shall~~ must not be
 21.22 based on the race, religion, ethnic background, age, class, or lifestyle of the potential subject.

21.23 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260C.212, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

21.24 **Subd. 2. Placement decisions based on best interests of the child.** (a) The policy of
 21.25 the state of Minnesota is to ensure that the child's best interests are met by requiring an
 21.26 individualized determination of the needs of the child in consideration of paragraphs (a) to
 21.27 (f), and of how the selected placement will serve the current and future needs of the child
 21.28 being placed. The authorized child-placing agency shall place a child, released by court
 21.29 order or by voluntary release by the parent or parents, in a family foster home selected by
 21.30 considering placement with relatives in the following order:

21.31 (1) with an individual who is related to the child by blood, marriage, or adoption,
 21.32 including the legal parent, guardian, or custodian of the child's sibling; or

22.1 (2) with an individual who is an important friend of the child or of the child's parent or
22.2 custodian, including an individual with whom the child has resided or had significant contact
22.3 or who has a significant relationship to the child or the child's parent or custodian.

22.4 For an Indian child, the agency shall follow the order of placement preferences in the Indian
22.5 Child Welfare Act of 1978, United States Code, title 25, section 1915.

22.6 (b) Among the factors the agency shall consider in determining the current and future
22.7 needs of the child are the following:

22.8 (1) the child's current functioning and behaviors;

22.9 (2) the medical needs of the child;

22.10 (3) the educational needs of the child;

22.11 (4) the developmental needs of the child;

22.12 (5) the child's history and past experience;

22.13 (6) the child's religious and cultural needs;

22.14 (7) the child's connection with a community, school, and faith community;

22.15 (8) the child's interests and talents;

22.16 (9) the child's current and long-term needs regarding relationships with parents, siblings,
22.17 relatives, and other caretakers;

22.18 (10) the reasonable preference of the child, if the court, or the child-placing agency in
22.19 the case of a voluntary placement, deems the child to be of sufficient age to express
22.20 preferences; and

22.21 (11) for an Indian child, the best interests of an Indian child as defined in section 260.755,
22.22 subdivision 2a.

22.23 When placing a child in foster care or in a permanent placement based on an individualized
22.24 determination of the child's needs, the agency must not use one factor in this paragraph to
22.25 the exclusion of all others, and the agency shall consider that the factors in paragraph (b)
22.26 may be interrelated.

22.27 (c) Placement of a child cannot be delayed or denied based on race, color, or national
22.28 origin of the foster parent or the child.

22.29 (d) Siblings should be placed together for foster care and adoption at the earliest possible
22.30 time unless it is documented that a joint placement would be contrary to the safety or
22.31 well-being of any of the siblings or unless it is not possible after reasonable efforts by the

23.1 responsible social services agency. In cases where siblings cannot be placed together, the
 23.2 agency is required to provide frequent visitation or other ongoing interaction between
 23.3 siblings unless the agency documents that the interaction would be contrary to the safety
 23.4 or well-being of any of the siblings.

23.5 (e) ~~Except for emergency placement as provided for in section 245A.035,~~ The following
 23.6 requirements must be satisfied before the approval of a foster ~~or adoptive~~ placement in a
 23.7 related or unrelated home: (1) a completed background study under section 245C.08; and
 23.8 (2) a completed review of the written home study required under section 260C.215,
 23.9 subdivision 4, clause (5), ~~or 260C.611,~~ to assess the capacity of the prospective foster ~~or~~
 23.10 ~~adoptive~~ parent to ensure the placement will meet the needs of the individual child. For
 23.11 adoptive placements in a related or unrelated home, the home must meet the requirements
 23.12 of section 260C.611.

23.13 (f) The agency must determine whether colocation with a parent who is receiving services
 23.14 in a licensed residential family-based substance use disorder treatment program is in the
 23.15 child's best interests according to paragraph (b) and include that determination in the child's
 23.16 case plan under subdivision 1. The agency may consider additional factors not identified
 23.17 in paragraph (b). The agency's determination must be documented in the child's case plan
 23.18 before the child is colocated with a parent.

23.19 (g) The agency must establish a juvenile treatment screening team under section 260C.157
 23.20 to determine whether it is necessary and appropriate to recommend placing a child in a
 23.21 qualified residential treatment program, as defined in section 260C.007, subdivision 26d.

23.22 (h) A child in foster care must not be placed in an unlicensed emergency relative
 23.23 placement under section 245A.035 or licensed family foster home when the responsible
 23.24 social service agency is aware that a prospective foster parent, license applicant, license
 23.25 holder, or adult household member has a permanent disqualification under section 245C.15,
 23.26 subdivision 4a, paragraphs (a) and (b).

23.27 Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260C.301, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

23.28 Subdivision 1. **Voluntary and involuntary.** The juvenile court may upon petition,
 23.29 terminate all rights of a parent to a child:

23.30 (a) with the written consent of a parent who for good cause desires to terminate parental
 23.31 rights; or

23.32 (b) if it finds that one or more of the following conditions exist:

23.33 (1) that the parent has abandoned the child;

24.1 (2) that the parent has substantially, continuously, or repeatedly refused or neglected to
24.2 comply with the duties imposed upon that parent by the parent and child relationship,
24.3 including but not limited to providing the child with necessary food, clothing, shelter,
24.4 education, and other care and control necessary for the child's physical, mental, or emotional
24.5 health and development, if the parent is physically and financially able, and either reasonable
24.6 efforts by the social services agency have failed to correct the conditions that formed the
24.7 basis of the petition or reasonable efforts would be futile and therefore unreasonable;

24.8 ~~(3) that a parent has been ordered to contribute to the support of the child or financially~~
24.9 ~~aid in the child's birth and has continuously failed to do so without good cause. This clause~~
24.10 ~~shall not be construed to state a grounds for termination of parental rights of a noncustodial~~
24.11 ~~parent if that parent has not been ordered to or cannot financially contribute to the support~~
24.12 ~~of the child or aid in the child's birth;~~

24.13 ~~(4)~~ (3) that a parent is palpably unfit to be a party to the parent and child relationship
24.14 because of a consistent pattern of specific conduct before the child or of specific conditions
24.15 directly relating to the parent and child relationship either of which are determined by the
24.16 court to be of a duration or nature that renders the parent unable, for the reasonably
24.17 foreseeable future, to care appropriately for the ongoing physical, mental, or emotional
24.18 needs of the child. It is presumed that a parent is palpably unfit to be a party to the parent
24.19 and child relationship upon a showing that the parent's parental rights to one or more other
24.20 children were involuntarily terminated or that the parent's custodial rights to another child
24.21 have been involuntarily transferred to a relative under Minnesota Statutes 2010, section
24.22 260C.201, subdivision 11, paragraph (e), clause (1), section 260C.515, subdivision 4, or a
24.23 similar law of another jurisdiction;

24.24 ~~(5)~~ (4) that following the child's placement out of the home, reasonable efforts, under
24.25 the direction of the court, have failed to correct the conditions leading to the child's
24.26 placement. It is presumed that reasonable efforts under this clause have failed upon a showing
24.27 that:

24.28 (i) a child has resided out of the parental home under court order for a cumulative period
24.29 of 12 months within the preceding 22 months. In the case of a child under age eight at the
24.30 time the petition was filed alleging the child to be in need of protection or services, the
24.31 presumption arises when the child has resided out of the parental home under court order
24.32 for six months unless the parent has maintained regular contact with the child and the parent
24.33 is complying with the out-of-home placement plan;

25.1 (ii) the court has approved the out-of-home placement plan required under section
25.2 260C.212 and filed with the court under section 260C.178;

25.3 (iii) conditions leading to the out-of-home placement have not been corrected. It is
25.4 presumed that conditions leading to a child's out-of-home placement have not been corrected
25.5 upon a showing that the parent or parents have not substantially complied with the court's
25.6 orders and a reasonable case plan; and

25.7 (iv) reasonable efforts have been made by the social services agency to rehabilitate the
25.8 parent and reunite the family.

25.9 This clause does not prohibit the termination of parental rights prior to one year, or in
25.10 the case of a child under age eight, prior to six months after a child has been placed out of
25.11 the home.

25.12 It is also presumed that reasonable efforts have failed under this clause upon a showing
25.13 that:

25.14 (A) the parent has been diagnosed as chemically dependent by a professional certified
25.15 to make the diagnosis;

25.16 (B) the parent has been required by a case plan to participate in a chemical dependency
25.17 treatment program;

25.18 (C) the treatment programs offered to the parent were culturally, linguistically, and
25.19 clinically appropriate;

25.20 (D) the parent has either failed two or more times to successfully complete a treatment
25.21 program or has refused at two or more separate meetings with a caseworker to participate
25.22 in a treatment program; and

25.23 (E) the parent continues to abuse chemicals.

25.24 ~~(6)~~ (5) that a child has experienced egregious harm in the parent's care ~~which~~ that is of
25.25 a nature, duration, or chronicity that indicates a lack of regard for the child's well-being,
25.26 such that a reasonable person would believe it contrary to the best interest of the child or
25.27 of any child to be in the parent's care;

25.28 ~~(7)~~ (6) that in the case of a child born to a mother who was not married to the child's
25.29 father when the child was conceived nor when the child was born the person is not entitled
25.30 to notice of an adoption hearing under section 259.49 and the person has not registered with
25.31 the fathers' adoption registry under section 259.52;

25.32 ~~(8)~~ (7) that the child is neglected and in foster care; or

26.1 ~~(9)~~ (8) that the parent has been convicted of a crime listed in section 260.012, paragraph
 26.2 (g), clauses (1) to (5).

26.3 In an action involving an American Indian child, sections 260.751 to 260.835 and the
 26.4 Indian Child Welfare Act, United States Code, title 25, sections 1901 to 1923, control to
 26.5 the extent that the provisions of this section are inconsistent with those laws.

26.6 Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260C.515, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

26.7 Subd. 4. **Transfer of permanent legal and physical custody to relative.** (a) The court
 26.8 may order a transfer of permanent legal and physical custody to:

26.9 (1) a parent. The court must find that the parent understands a transfer of permanent
 26.10 legal and physical custody includes permanent, ongoing responsibility for the protection,
 26.11 education, care, and control of the child and decision making on behalf of the child until
 26.12 adulthood; or

26.13 (2) a fit and willing relative in the best interests of the child according to the following
 26.14 requirements: in paragraph (b).

26.15 ~~(1)~~ (b) An order for transfer of permanent legal and physical custody to a relative shall
 26.16 must only be made after the court has reviewed the suitability of the prospective legal and
 26.17 physical custodian, including a summary of information obtained from required background
 26.18 studies under section 245C.33 or 260C.209, if the court finds the permanency disposition
 26.19 to be in the child's best interests.

26.20 ~~(2)~~ In transferring permanent legal and physical custody to a relative, the juvenile court
 26.21 shall follow the standards applicable under this chapter and chapter 260, and the procedures
 26.22 in the Minnesota Rules of Juvenile Protection Procedure; The court must issue written
 26.23 findings that include the following:

26.24 (1) the prospective legal and physical custodian understands that:

26.25 ~~(3)~~ (i) a transfer of permanent legal and physical custody includes permanent, ongoing
 26.26 responsibility for the protection, education, care, and control of the child and decision
 26.27 making on behalf of the child until adulthood; and

26.28 ~~(4)~~ (ii) a permanent legal and physical custodian ~~may~~ shall not return a child to the
 26.29 permanent care of a parent from whom the court removed custody without the court's
 26.30 approval and without notice to the responsible social services agency;

27.1 (2) transfer of permanent legal and physical custody and receipt of Northstar kinship
 27.2 assistance under chapter 256N, when requested and the child is eligible, are in the child's
 27.3 best interests;

27.4 (3) when the agency files the petition under paragraph (c) or supports the petition filed
 27.5 under paragraph (d), adoption is not in the child's best interests based on the determinations
 27.6 in the kinship placement agreement required under section 256N.22, subdivision 2;

27.7 (4) the agency made efforts to discuss adoption with the child's parent or parents, or the
 27.8 agency did not make efforts to discuss adoption and the reasons why efforts were not made;
 27.9 and

27.10 (5) there are reasons to separate siblings during placement, if applicable.

27.11 ~~(5)~~ (c) The responsible social services agency may file a petition naming a fit and willing
 27.12 relative as a proposed permanent legal and physical custodian. A petition for transfer of
 27.13 permanent legal and physical custody to a relative who is not a parent shall include facts
 27.14 upon which the court can determine suitability of the proposed custodian, including a
 27.15 summary of results from required background studies completed under section 245C.33.
 27.16 The petition must be accompanied by a kinship placement agreement under section 256N.22,
 27.17 subdivision 2, between the agency and proposed permanent legal and physical custodian;

27.18 ~~(6)~~ (d) Another party to the permanency proceeding regarding the child may file a petition
 27.19 to transfer permanent legal and physical custody to a relative. The petition must include
 27.20 facts upon which the court can make the ~~determination~~ determinations required under ~~clause~~
 27.21 ~~(7) and~~ paragraph (b), including suitability of the proposed custodian and, if completed, a
 27.22 summary of results from required background studies completed under section 245C.33 or
 27.23 260C.209. If background studies have not been completed at the time of filing the petition,
 27.24 they must be completed and a summary of results provided to the court prior to the court
 27.25 granting the petition or finalizing the order according to paragraph (e). The petition must
 27.26 be filed ~~not~~ no later than the date for the required admit-deny hearing under section 260C.507;
 27.27 or if the agency's petition is filed under section 260C.503, subdivision 2, the petition must
 27.28 be filed not later than 30 days prior to the trial required under section 260C.509;

27.29 ~~(7) where a petition is for transfer of permanent legal and physical custody to a relative~~
 27.30 ~~who is not a parent, the court must find that:~~

27.31 ~~(i) transfer of permanent legal and physical custody and receipt of Northstar kinship~~
 27.32 ~~assistance under chapter 256N, when requested and the child is eligible, are in the child's~~
 27.33 ~~best interests;~~

28.1 ~~(ii) adoption is not in the child's best interests based on the determinations in the kinship~~
 28.2 ~~placement agreement required under section 256N.22, subdivision 2;~~

28.3 ~~(iii) the agency made efforts to discuss adoption with the child's parent or parents, or~~
 28.4 ~~the agency did not make efforts to discuss adoption and the reasons why efforts were not~~
 28.5 ~~made; and~~

28.6 ~~(iv) there are reasons to separate siblings during placement, if applicable;~~

28.7 ~~(8)~~ (e) The court may:

28.8 (1) defer finalization of an order transferring permanent legal and physical custody to a
 28.9 relative when deferring finalization is necessary to determine eligibility for Northstar kinship
 28.10 assistance under chapter 256N;

28.11 ~~(9) the court may~~ (2) finalize a permanent transfer of permanent legal and physical and
 28.12 legal custody to a relative regardless of eligibility for Northstar kinship assistance under
 28.13 chapter 256N, provided that the court has reviewed the suitability of the proposed custodian,
 28.14 including the summary of background study results, consistent with paragraph (b); and

28.15 ~~(10) the juvenile court may~~ (3) following a transfer of permanent legal and physical
 28.16 custody to a relative, maintain jurisdiction over the responsible social services agency, the
 28.17 parents or guardian of the child, the child, and the permanent legal and physical custodian
 28.18 for purposes of ensuring appropriate services are delivered to the child and permanent legal
 28.19 custodian for the purpose of ensuring conditions ordered by the court related to the care and
 28.20 custody of the child are met.

28.21 Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260C.607, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

28.22 Subdivision 1. **Review hearings.** (a) The court shall conduct a review of the responsible
 28.23 social services agency's reasonable efforts to finalize adoption for any child under the
 28.24 guardianship of the commissioner and of the progress of the case toward adoption at least
 28.25 every 90 days after the court issues an order that the commissioner is the guardian of the
 28.26 child.

28.27 (b) The review of progress toward adoption shall continue notwithstanding that an appeal
 28.28 is made of the order for guardianship or termination of parental rights.

28.29 (c) The agency's reasonable efforts to finalize the adoption must continue during the
 28.30 pendency of the appeal under paragraph (b) or subdivision 6, paragraph (h), and all progress
 28.31 toward adoption shall continue except that the court may not finalize an adoption while the
 28.32 appeal is pending.

29.1 Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260C.607, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

29.2 Subd. 6. **Motion and hearing to order adoptive placement.** (a) At any time after the
29.3 district court orders the child under the guardianship of the commissioner of human services,
29.4 but not later than 30 days after receiving notice required under section 260C.613, subdivision
29.5 1, paragraph (c), that the agency has made an adoptive placement, a relative or the child's
29.6 foster parent may file a motion for an order for adoptive placement of a child who is under
29.7 the guardianship of the commissioner if the relative or the child's foster parent:

29.8 (1) has an adoption home study under section 259.41 or 260C.611 approving the relative
29.9 or foster parent for adoption. If the relative or foster parent does not have an adoption home
29.10 study, an affidavit attesting to efforts to complete an adoption home study may be filed with
29.11 the motion instead. The affidavit must be signed by the relative or foster parent and the
29.12 responsible social services agency or licensed child-placing agency completing the adoption
29.13 home study. The relative or foster parent must also have been a resident of Minnesota for
29.14 at least six months before filing the motion; the court may waive the residency requirement
29.15 for the moving party if there is a reasonable basis to do so; or

29.16 (2) is not a resident of Minnesota, but has an approved adoption home study by an agency
29.17 licensed or approved to complete an adoption home study in the state of the individual's
29.18 residence and the study is filed with the motion for adoptive placement. If the relative or
29.19 foster parent does not have an adoption home study in the relative or foster parent's state
29.20 of residence, an affidavit attesting to efforts to complete an adoption home study may be
29.21 filed with the motion instead. The affidavit must be signed by the relative or foster parent
29.22 and the agency completing the adoption home study.

29.23 (b) The motion ~~shall~~ must be filed with the court conducting reviews of the child's
29.24 progress toward adoption under this section. The motion and supporting documents must
29.25 make a prima facie showing that the agency has been unreasonable in failing to make the
29.26 requested adoptive placement. The motion must be served according to the requirements
29.27 for motions under the Minnesota Rules of Juvenile Protection Procedure and ~~shall~~ must be
29.28 made on all individuals and entities listed in subdivision 2.

29.29 (c) If the motion and supporting documents do not make a prima facie showing for the
29.30 court to determine whether the agency has been unreasonable in failing to make the requested
29.31 adoptive placement, the court shall dismiss the motion. If the court determines a prima facie
29.32 basis is made, the court shall set the matter for evidentiary hearing.

29.33 (d) At the evidentiary hearing, the responsible social services agency shall proceed first
29.34 with evidence about the reason for not making the adoptive placement proposed by the

30.1 moving party. When the agency presents evidence regarding the child's current relationship
30.2 with the identified adoptive placement resource, the court must consider the agency's efforts
30.3 to support the child's relationship with the moving party consistent with section 260C.221.
30.4 The moving party then has the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that
30.5 the agency has been unreasonable in failing to make the adoptive placement.

30.6 (e) The court shall review and enter findings regarding whether the agency, in making
30.7 an adoptive placement decision for the child:

30.8 (1) considered relatives for adoptive placement in the order specified under section
30.9 260C.212, subdivision 2, paragraph (a); and

30.10 (2) assessed how the identified adoptive placement resource and the moving party are
30.11 each able to meet the child's current and future needs, based on an individualized
30.12 determination of the child's needs, as required under sections 260C.212, subdivision 2, and
30.13 260C.613, subdivision 1, paragraph (b).

30.14 (f) At the conclusion of the evidentiary hearing, if the court finds that the agency has
30.15 been unreasonable in failing to make the adoptive placement and that the moving party is
30.16 the most suitable adoptive home to meet the child's needs using the factors in section
30.17 260C.212, subdivision 2, paragraph (b), the court may:

30.18 (1) order the responsible social services agency to make an adoptive placement in the
30.19 home of the moving party if the moving party has an approved adoption home study; or

30.20 (2) order the responsible social services agency to place the child in the home of the
30.21 moving party upon approval of an adoption home study. The agency must promote and
30.22 support the child's ongoing visitation and contact with the moving party until the child is
30.23 placed in the moving party's home. The agency must provide an update to the court after
30.24 90 days, including progress and any barriers encountered. If the moving party does not have
30.25 an approved adoption home study within 180 days, the moving party and the agency must
30.26 inform the court of any barriers to obtaining the approved adoption home study during a
30.27 review hearing under this section. If the court finds that the moving party is unable to obtain
30.28 an approved adoption home study, the court must dismiss the order for adoptive placement
30.29 under this subdivision and order the agency to continue making reasonable efforts to finalize
30.30 the adoption of the child as required under section 260C.605.

30.31 (g) If, in order to ensure that a timely adoption may occur, the court orders the responsible
30.32 social services agency to make an adoptive placement under this subdivision, the agency
30.33 shall:

31.1 (1) make reasonable efforts to obtain a fully executed adoption placement agreement,
31.2 including assisting the moving party with the adoption home study process;

31.3 (2) work with the moving party regarding eligibility for adoption assistance as required
31.4 under chapter 256N; and

31.5 (3) if the moving party is not a resident of Minnesota, timely refer the matter for approval
31.6 of the adoptive placement through the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children.

31.7 (h) Denial or granting of a motion for an order for adoptive placement after an evidentiary
31.8 hearing is an order ~~which~~ that may be appealed by the responsible social services agency,
31.9 the moving party, the child, when age ten or over, the child's guardian ad litem, and any
31.10 individual who had a fully executed adoption placement agreement regarding the child at
31.11 the time the motion was filed if the court's order has the effect of terminating the adoption
31.12 placement agreement. An appeal ~~shall~~ must be conducted according to the requirements of
31.13 the Rules of Juvenile Protection Procedure. Pursuant to subdivision 1, paragraph (c), the
31.14 court shall not finalize an adoption while an appeal is pending.

31.15 Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260C.611, is amended to read:

31.16 **260C.611 ADOPTION STUDY REQUIRED.**

31.17 (a) An adoption study under section 259.41 approving placement of the child in the
31.18 home of the prospective adoptive parent ~~shall~~ must be completed before placing any child
31.19 under the guardianship of the commissioner in a home for adoption. If a prospective adoptive
31.20 parent has a current child foster care license under chapter 245A and is seeking to adopt a
31.21 foster child who is placed in the prospective adoptive parent's home and is under the
31.22 guardianship of the commissioner according to section 260C.325, subdivision 1, the child
31.23 foster care home study meets the requirements of this section for an approved adoption
31.24 home study if:

31.25 (1) the written home study on which the foster care license was based is completed in
31.26 the commissioner's designated format, consistent with the requirements in sections 259.41,
31.27 subdivision 2; and 260C.215, subdivision 4, clause (5); and Minnesota Rules, part 2960.3060,
31.28 subpart 4;

31.29 (2) the background studies on each prospective adoptive parent and all required household
31.30 members were completed according to section 245C.33;

31.31 (3) the commissioner has not issued, ~~within the last three years,~~ a sanction on the license
31.32 under section 245A.07 or an order of a conditional license under section 245A.06 within
31.33 the last three years, or the commissioner has determined it to be in the child's best interests

32.1 to allow the child foster care home study to meet requirements of an approved adoption
 32.2 home study upon review of the legally responsible agency's adoptive placement decision;
 32.3 and

32.4 (4) the legally responsible agency determines that the individual needs of the child are
 32.5 being met by the prospective adoptive parent through an assessment under section 256N.24,
 32.6 subdivision 2, or a documented placement decision consistent with section 260C.212,
 32.7 subdivision 2.

32.8 (b) If a prospective adoptive parent has previously held a foster care license or adoptive
 32.9 home study, any update necessary to the foster care license, or updated or new adoptive
 32.10 home study, if not completed by the licensing authority responsible for the previous license
 32.11 or home study, shall include collateral information from the previous licensing or approving
 32.12 agency, if available.

32.13 Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260C.613, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

32.14 Subdivision 1. **Adoptive placement decisions.** (a) The responsible social services agency
 32.15 has exclusive authority to make an adoptive placement ~~of~~ decision for a child under the
 32.16 guardianship of the commissioner. The child ~~shall be considered~~ is legally placed for adoption
 32.17 when the adopting parent, the agency, and the commissioner have fully executed an adoption
 32.18 placement agreement on the form prescribed by the commissioner.

32.19 (b) The responsible social services agency shall use an individualized determination of
 32.20 the child's current and future needs, pursuant to section 260C.212, subdivision 2, paragraph
 32.21 (b), to determine the most suitable adopting parent for the child in the child's best interests.
 32.22 The responsible social services agency must consider adoptive placement of the child with
 32.23 relatives in the order specified in section 260C.212, subdivision 2, paragraph (a).

32.24 (c) The responsible social services agency shall notify the court and parties entitled to
 32.25 notice under section 260C.607, subdivision 2, when there is a fully executed adoption
 32.26 placement agreement for the child.

32.27 (d) Pursuant to section 260C.615, subdivision 1, paragraph (b), clause (4), the responsible
 32.28 social services agency shall immediately notify the commissioner if the agency learns of
 32.29 any new or previously undisclosed criminal or maltreatment information involving an
 32.30 adoptive placement of a child under guardianship of the commissioner.

32.31 ~~(d)~~ (e) In the event a party to an adoption placement agreement terminates the agreement,
 32.32 the responsible social services agency shall notify the court, the parties entitled to notice

33.1 under section 260C.607, subdivision 2, and the commissioner that the agreement and the
33.2 adoptive placement have terminated.

33.3 Sec. 20. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260C.615, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

33.4 Subdivision 1. **Duties.** (a) For any child who is under the guardianship of the
33.5 commissioner, the commissioner has the exclusive rights to consent to:

33.6 (1) the medical care plan for the treatment of a child who is at imminent risk of death
33.7 or who has a chronic disease that, in a physician's judgment, will result in the child's death
33.8 in the near future including a physician's order not to resuscitate or intubate the child; and

33.9 (2) the child donating a part of the child's body to another person while the child is living;
33.10 the decision to donate a body part under this clause shall take into consideration the child's
33.11 wishes and the child's culture.

33.12 (b) In addition to the exclusive rights under paragraph (a), the commissioner has a duty
33.13 to:

33.14 (1) process any complete and accurate request for home study and placement through
33.15 the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children under section 260.851;

33.16 (2) process any complete and accurate application for adoption assistance forwarded by
33.17 the responsible social services agency according to chapter 256N;

33.18 (3) review and process an adoption placement agreement forwarded to the commissioner
33.19 by the responsible social services agency and return it to the agency in a timely fashion;
33.20 ~~and~~

33.21 (4) review new or previously undisclosed information received from the agency or other
33.22 individuals or entities that may impact the health, safety, or well-being of a child who is
33.23 the subject of a fully executed adoption placement agreement; and

33.24 ~~(4)~~ (5) maintain records as required in chapter 259.

33.25 Sec. 21. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260E.03, subdivision 23, is amended to read:

33.26 Subd. 23. **Threatened injury.** (a) "Threatened injury" means a statement, overt act,
33.27 condition, or status that represents a substantial risk of physical or sexual abuse or mental
33.28 injury.

33.29 (b) Threatened injury includes, but is not limited to, exposing a child to a person
33.30 responsible for the child's care, as defined in subdivision 17, who has:

34.1 (1) subjected a child to, or failed to protect a child from, an overt act or condition that
34.2 constitutes egregious harm under subdivision 5 or a similar law of another jurisdiction;

34.3 (2) been found to be palpably unfit under section 260C.301, subdivision 1, paragraph
34.4 (b), clause (4), or a similar law of another jurisdiction;

34.5 (3) committed an act that resulted in an involuntary termination of parental rights under
34.6 section 260C.301, or a similar law of another jurisdiction; or

34.7 (4) committed an act that resulted in the involuntary transfer of permanent legal and
34.8 physical custody of a child to a relative or parent under Minnesota Statutes 2010, section
34.9 260C.201, subdivision 11, paragraph (d), clause (1), section 260C.515, subdivision 4, or a
34.10 similar law of another jurisdiction.

34.11 (c) A child is the subject of a report of threatened injury when the local welfare agency
34.12 receives birth match data under section 260E.14, subdivision 4, from the Department of
34.13 Human Services.

34.14 ARTICLE 3

34.15 ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

34.16 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 119B.011, subdivision 15, is
34.17 amended to read:

34.18 Subd. 15. **Income.** "Income" means earned income as defined under section 256P.01,
34.19 subdivision 3; unearned income as defined under section 256P.01, subdivision 8; income
34.20 under Minnesota Rules, part 3400.0170; and public assistance cash benefits, including the
34.21 Minnesota family investment program, work benefit, Minnesota supplemental aid, general
34.22 assistance, refugee cash assistance, at-home infant child care subsidy payments, and child
34.23 support and maintenance distributed to the family under section 256.741, subdivision 2a.

34.24 The following are deducted from income: funds used to pay for health insurance
34.25 premiums for family members, and child or spousal support paid to or on behalf of a person
34.26 or persons who live outside of the household. Income sources not included in this subdivision
34.27 ~~and~~; section 256P.06, subdivision 3; and Minnesota Rules, part 3400.0170, are not counted
34.28 as income.

34.29 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 256J.08, subdivision 34a, is amended to read:

34.30 Subd. 34a. **Family violence.** (a) "Family violence" means the following, if committed
34.31 against a family or household member by a family or household member:

- 35.1 (1) physical harm, bodily injury, or assault;
- 35.2 (2) the infliction of fear of ~~imminent~~ physical harm, bodily injury, or assault; or
- 35.3 (3) terroristic threats, within the meaning of section 609.713, subdivision 1; criminal
- 35.4 sexual conduct, within the meaning of section 609.342, 609.343, 609.344, 609.345, or
- 35.5 609.3451; or interference with an emergency call within the meaning of section 609.78,
- 35.6 subdivision 2.
- 35.7 (b) For the purposes of family violence, "family or household member" means:
- 35.8 (1) spouses and former spouses;
- 35.9 (2) parents and children;
- 35.10 (3) persons related by blood;
- 35.11 (4) persons who are residing together or who have resided together in the past;
- 35.12 (5) persons who have a child in common regardless of whether they have been married
- 35.13 or have lived together at any time;
- 35.14 (6) a man and woman if the woman is pregnant and the man is alleged to be the father,
- 35.15 regardless of whether they have been married or have lived together at anytime; and
- 35.16 (7) persons involved in a current or past significant romantic or sexual relationship.

35.17 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 256J.28, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

35.18 Subdivision 1. **Expedited issuance of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**

35.19 **(SNAP) benefits.** ~~The following households are entitled to expedited issuance of SNAP~~

35.20 ~~benefits assistance:~~

35.21 ~~(1) households with less than \$150 in monthly gross income provided their liquid assets~~

35.22 ~~do not exceed \$100;~~

35.23 ~~(2) migrant or seasonal farm worker households who are destitute as defined in Code~~

35.24 ~~of Federal Regulations, title 7, subtitle B, chapter 2, subchapter C, part 273, section 273.10,~~

35.25 ~~paragraph (c)(3), provided their liquid assets do not exceed \$100; and~~

35.26 ~~(3) eligible households whose combined monthly gross income and liquid resources are~~

35.27 ~~less than the household's monthly rent or mortgage and utilities.~~

35.28 For any month an individual receives expedited SNAP benefits, the individual is not

35.29 eligible for the MFIP food portion of assistance.

36.1 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 256P.05, is amended by adding a subdivision to
36.2 read:

36.3 Subd. 4. **Rental income.** Rental income is subject to the requirements of this section.

36.4 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 256P.06, subdivision 3, is amended
36.5 to read:

36.6 Subd. 3. **Income inclusions.** The following must be included in determining the income
36.7 of an assistance unit:

36.8 (1) earned income; and

36.9 (2) unearned income, which includes:

36.10 (i) interest and dividends from investments and savings;

36.11 (ii) capital gains as defined by the Internal Revenue Service from any sale of real property;

36.12 (iii) ~~proceeds from rent and~~ contract for deed payments in excess of the principal and
36.13 interest portion owed on property;

36.14 (iv) income from trusts, excluding special needs and supplemental needs trusts;

36.15 (v) interest income from loans made by the participant or household;

36.16 (vi) cash prizes and winnings;

36.17 (vii) unemployment insurance income that is received by an adult member of the
36.18 assistance unit unless the individual receiving unemployment insurance income is:

36.19 (A) 18 years of age and enrolled in a secondary school; or

36.20 (B) 18 or 19 years of age, a caregiver, and is enrolled in school at least half-time;

36.21 (viii) for the purposes of programs under chapters 256D and 256I, retirement, survivors,
36.22 and disability insurance payments;

36.23 (ix) retirement benefits;

36.24 (x) cash assistance benefits, as defined by each program in chapters 119B, 256D, 256I,
36.25 and 256J;

36.26 (xi) income from members of the United States armed forces unless excluded from
36.27 income taxes according to federal or state law;

36.28 (xii) for the purposes of programs under chapters 119B, 256D, and 256I, all child support
36.29 payments;

37.1 (xiii) for the purposes of programs under chapter 256J, the amount of child support
 37.2 received that exceeds \$100 for assistance units with one child and \$200 for assistance units
 37.3 with two or more children;

37.4 (xiv) spousal support;

37.5 (xv) workers' compensation; and

37.6 (xvi) for the purposes of programs under chapters 119B and 256J, the amount of
 37.7 retirement, survivors, and disability insurance payments that exceeds the applicable monthly
 37.8 federal maximum Supplemental Security Income payments.

37.9 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 393.07, subdivision 10a, is amended to read:

37.10 Subd. 10a. **Expedited issuance of SNAP benefits.** The commissioner of human services
 37.11 shall continually monitor the expedited issuance of SNAP benefits to ensure that each county
 37.12 complies with federal regulations and that households eligible for expedited issuance of
 37.13 SNAP benefits are identified, processed, and certified within the time frames prescribed in
 37.14 federal regulations.

37.15 ~~County SNAP benefits offices shall screen applicants on the day of application.~~
 37.16 ~~Applicants who meet the federal criteria for expedited issuance and have an immediate need~~
 37.17 ~~for food assistance shall receive within five working days the issuance of SNAP benefits.~~

37.18 ~~The local SNAP agency shall conspicuously post in each SNAP office a notice of the~~
 37.19 ~~availability of and the procedure for applying for expedited issuance and verbally advise~~
 37.20 ~~each applicant of the availability of the expedited process.~~

37.21 ARTICLE 4

37.22 ADOPTION RECORDS

37.23 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 144.2252, subdivision 2, is
 37.24 amended to read:

37.25 Subd. 2. **Release of original birth record.** (a) The state registrar must provide to an
 37.26 adopted person who is 18 years of age or older or a person related to the adopted person a
 37.27 copy of the adopted person's original birth record and any evidence of the adoption previously
 37.28 filed with the state registrar. To receive a copy of an original birth record under this
 37.29 subdivision, the adopted person or person related to the adopted person must make the
 37.30 request to the state registrar in writing. The copy of the original birth record must clearly
 37.31 indicate that it may not be used for identification purposes. All procedures, fees, and waiting

38.1 periods applicable to a nonadopted person's request for a copy of a birth record apply in the
38.2 same manner as requests made under this section.

38.3 (b) If a contact preference form is attached to the original birth record as authorized
38.4 under section 144.2253, the state registrar must provide a copy of the contact preference
38.5 form along with the copy of the adopted person's original birth record.

38.6 (c) The state registrar shall provide a transcript of an adopted person's original birth
38.7 record to an authorized representative of a federally recognized American Indian Tribe for
38.8 the sole purpose of determining the adopted person's eligibility for enrollment or membership.
38.9 Information contained in the birth record may not be used to provide the adopted person
38.10 information about the person's birth parents, except as provided in this section or section
38.11 259.83.

38.12 (d) For a replacement birth record issued under section 144.218, the adopted person or
38.13 a person related to the adopted person may obtain from the state registrar copies of the order
38.14 or decree of adoption, certificate of adoption, or decree issued under section 259.60, as filed
38.15 with the state registrar.

38.16 (e) The state registrar may request assistance from the commissioner of human services
38.17 if needed to discharge duties under this section, as authorized under section 259.79.

38.18 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2024.

38.19 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 144.2253, is amended to read:

38.20 **144.2253 BIRTH PARENT CONTACT PREFERENCE FORM.**

38.21 (a) The commissioner must make available to the public a contact preference form as
38.22 described in paragraph (b).

38.23 (b) The contact preference form must provide the following information to be completed
38.24 at the option of a birth parent:

38.25 (1) "I would like to be contacted."

38.26 (2) "I would prefer to be contacted only through an intermediary."

38.27 (3) "I prefer not to be contacted at this time. If I decide later that I would like to be
38.28 contacted, I will submit an updated contact preference form to the Minnesota Department
38.29 of Health."

38.30 (c) A contact preference form must include space where the birth parent may include
38.31 information that the birth parent feels is important for the adopted person to know.

39.1 (d) If a birth parent of an adopted person submits a completed contact preference form
39.2 to the commissioner, the commissioner must:

39.3 (1) match the contact preference form to the adopted person's original birth record. The
39.4 commissioner may request assistance from the commissioner of human services if needed
39.5 to discharge duties under this clause, as authorized under section 259.79; and

39.6 (2) attach the contact preference form to the original birth record as required under
39.7 section 144.2252.

39.8 (e) A contact preference form submitted to the commissioner under this section is private
39.9 data on an individual as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 12, except that the contact
39.10 preference form may be released as provided under section 144.2252, subdivision 2.

39.11 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2023.

39.12 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 259.37, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

39.13 Subd. 2. **Disclosure to birth parents and adoptive parents.** An agency shall provide
39.14 a disclosure statement written in clear, plain language to be signed by the prospective
39.15 adoptive parents and birth parents, except that in intercountry adoptions, the signatures of
39.16 birth parents are not required. The disclosure statement must contain the following
39.17 information:

39.18 (1) fees charged to the adoptive parent, including any policy on sliding scale fees or fee
39.19 waivers and an itemization of the amount that will be charged for the adoption study,
39.20 counseling, postplacement services, family of origin searches, birth parent expenses
39.21 authorized under section 259.55, or any other services;

39.22 (2) timeline for the adoptive parent to make fee payments;

39.23 (3) likelihood, given the circumstances of the prospective adoptive parent and any specific
39.24 program to which the prospective adoptive parent is applying, that an adoptive placement
39.25 may be made and the estimated length of time for making an adoptive placement. These
39.26 estimates must be based on adoptive placements made with prospective parents in similar
39.27 circumstances applying to a similar program with the agency during the immediately
39.28 preceding three to five years. If an agency has not been in operation for at least three years,
39.29 it must provide summary data based on whatever adoptive placements it has made and may
39.30 include a statement about the kind of efforts it will make to achieve an adoptive placement,
39.31 including a timetable it will follow in seeking a child. The estimates must include a statement
39.32 that the agency cannot guarantee placement of a child or a time by which a child will be
39.33 placed;

40.1 (4) a statement of the services the agency will provide the birth and adoptive parents;

40.2 (5) a statement prepared by the commissioner under section 259.39 that explains the
 40.3 child placement and adoption process and the respective legal rights and responsibilities of
 40.4 the birth parent and prospective adoptive parent during the process including a statement
 40.5 that the prospective adoptive parent is responsible for filing an adoption petition not later
 40.6 than 12 months after the child is placed in the prospective adoptive home;

40.7 (6) a statement regarding any information the agency may have about attorney referral
 40.8 services, or about obtaining assistance with completing legal requirements for an adoption;
 40.9 ~~and~~

40.10 (7) a statement regarding the right of an adopted person to request and obtain a copy of
 40.11 the adopted person's original birth record at the age and circumstances specified in section
 40.12 144.2253 and the right of the birth parent named on the adopted person's original birth
 40.13 record to file a contact preference form with the state registrar pursuant to section 144.2253;
 40.14 and

40.15 ~~(7)~~ (8) an acknowledgment to be signed by the birth parent and prospective adoptive
 40.16 parent that they have received, read, and had the opportunity to ask questions of the agency
 40.17 about the contents of the disclosure statement.

40.18 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2024.

40.19 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 259.79, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

40.20 Subdivision 1. **Content.** (a) The adoption records of the commissioner's agents and
 40.21 licensed child-placing agencies shall contain copies of all relevant legal documents,
 40.22 responsibly collected genetic, medical and social history of the child and the child's birth
 40.23 parents, the child's placement record, copies of all pertinent agreements, contracts, and
 40.24 correspondence relevant to the adoption, and copies of all reports and recommendations
 40.25 made to the court.

40.26 (b) The commissioner of human services shall maintain a permanent record of all
 40.27 adoptions granted in district court in Minnesota regarding children who are:

40.28 (1) under guardianship of the commissioner or a licensed child-placing agency according
 40.29 to section 260C.317 or 260C.515, subdivision 3;

40.30 (2) placed by the commissioner, commissioner's agent, or licensed child-placing agency
 40.31 after a consent to adopt according to section 259.24 or under an agreement conferring
 40.32 authority to place for adoption according to section 259.25; or

41.1 (3) adopted after a direct adoptive placement approved by the district court under section
41.2 259.47.

41.3 Each record shall contain identifying information about the child, the birth or legal
41.4 parents, and adoptive parents, including race where such data is available. The record must
41.5 also contain: (1) the date the child was legally freed for adoption; (2) the date of the adoptive
41.6 placement; (3) the name of the placing agency; (4) the county where the adoptive placement
41.7 occurred; (5) the date that the petition to adopt was filed; (6) the county where the petition
41.8 to adopt was filed; and (7) the date and county where the adoption decree was granted.

41.9 (c) Identifying information contained in the adoption record ~~shall~~ must be confidential
41.10 and ~~shall~~ must be disclosed only pursuant to section 259.61 or, for adoption records
41.11 maintained by the commissioner of human services, upon request from the commissioner
41.12 of health or state registrar pursuant to sections 144.2252 and 144.2253.

41.13 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 259.83, subdivision 1, is amended
41.14 to read:

41.15 Subdivision 1. **Services provided.** (a) Agencies shall provide assistance and counseling
41.16 services upon receiving a request for current information from adoptive parents, birth parents,
41.17 ~~or~~ adopted persons aged 18 years of age and older, or adult siblings of adopted persons.
41.18 The agency shall contact the other adult persons or the adoptive parents of a minor child in
41.19 a personal and confidential manner to determine whether there is a desire to receive or share
41.20 information or to have contact. If there is such a desire, the agency shall provide the services
41.21 requested. The agency shall ~~provide services to adult genetic siblings if there is no known~~
41.22 ~~violation of the confidentiality of a birth parent or if the birth parent gives written consent~~
41.23 complete the search request within six months of the request being made. If the agency is
41.24 unable to complete the search request within the specified time frame, the agency shall
41.25 inform the requester of the status of the request and include a reasonable estimate of when
41.26 the request can be completed.

41.27 (b) Upon a request for assistance or services from an adoptive parent of a minor child,
41.28 birth parent, or an adopted person 18 years of age or older, the agency must inform the
41.29 person:

41.30 (1) about the right of an adopted person to request and obtain a copy of the adopted
41.31 person's original birth record at the age and circumstances specified in section 144.2253;
41.32 and

42.1 (2) about the right of the birth parent named on the adopted person's original birth record
42.2 to file a contact preference form with the state registrar pursuant to section 144.2253.

42.3 ~~In~~ When making or supervising an adoptive placements placement, the agency must provide
42.4 in writing to the birth parents listed on the original birth record the information required
42.5 under this ~~section~~ paragraph and section 259.37, subdivision 2, clause (7).

42.6 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 259.83, subdivision 1b, is amended
42.7 to read:

42.8 Subd. 1b. **Genetic Siblings.** (a) A person who is at least 18 years of age who was adopted
42.9 ~~or, because of a termination of parental rights, who~~ was committed to the guardianship of
42.10 the commissioner of human services, ~~whether adopted or~~ and not, adopted must upon request
42.11 be advised of other siblings who were adopted or who were committed to the guardianship
42.12 of the commissioner of human services and not adopted.

42.13 (b) The agency must provide assistance ~~must be provided by the county or placing agency~~
42.14 ~~of~~ to the person requesting information to the extent that information is available in the
42.15 ~~existing records at the Department of Human Services~~ required to be kept under section
42.16 259.79. If the sibling received services from another agency, the agencies must share
42.17 necessary information in order to locate the other siblings and to offer services, as requested.
42.18 ~~Upon the determination that parental rights with respect to another sibling were terminated,~~
42.19 ~~identifying information and contact must be provided only upon mutual consent.~~ A reasonable
42.20 fee may be imposed by the ~~county or placing~~ agency.

42.21 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 259.83, subdivision 3a, is amended
42.22 to read:

42.23 Subd. 3a. **Birth parent identifying information.** (a) This subdivision applies to adoptive
42.24 placements where an adopted person does not have a record of live birth registered in this
42.25 state. Upon written request by an adopted person 18 years of age or older, the agency
42.26 responsible for or supervising the placement must provide to the requester the following
42.27 identifying information related to the birth parents listed on that adopted person's original
42.28 birth record, to the extent the information is available:

42.29 (1) each of the birth parent's names; and

42.30 (2) each of the birth parent's birthdate and birthplace.

42.31 (b) The agency may charge a reasonable fee to the requester for providing the required
42.32 information under paragraph (a).

43.1 (c) The agency, acting in good faith and in a lawful manner in disclosing the identifying
43.2 information under this subdivision, is not civilly liable for such disclosure.

43.3 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 259.83, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

43.4 Subd. 4. **Confidentiality.** Agencies shall provide adoptive parents, birth parents and
43.5 adult siblings, and adopted persons aged ~~19~~ 18 years and over reasonable assistance in a
43.6 manner consistent with state and federal laws, rules, and regulations regarding the
43.7 confidentiality and privacy of child welfare and adoption records.