

**SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 669**

A bill to amend 1939 PA 288, entitled
"Probate code of 1939,"
by amending section 19a of chapter XIIIA (MCL 712A.19a), as amended
by 2004 PA 473.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

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CHAPTER XIIIA

Sec. 19a. (1) Subject to subsection (2), if a child remains in
foster care and parental rights to the child have not been
terminated, the court shall conduct a permanency planning hearing
within 12 months after the child was removed from his or her home.
Subsequent permanency planning hearings shall be held no later than
every 12 months after each preceding permanency planning hearing
during the continuation of foster care. If proper notice for a
permanency planning hearing is provided, a permanency planning

1 hearing may be combined with a review hearing held under section
2 19(2) to (4) of this chapter, but no later than 12 months from the
3 removal of the child from his or her home, from the preceding
4 permanency planning hearing, or from the number of days required
5 under subsection (2). A permanency planning hearing shall not be
6 canceled or delayed beyond the number of months required by this
7 subsection or days as required under subsection (2), regardless of
8 whether there is a petition for termination of parental rights
9 pending.

10 (2) The court shall conduct a permanency planning hearing
11 within 30 days after there is a judicial determination that
12 reasonable efforts to reunite the child and family are not
13 required. Reasonable efforts to reunify the child and family must
14 be made in all cases except if any of the following apply:

15 (a) There is a judicial determination that the parent has
16 subjected the child to aggravated circumstances as provided in
17 section 18(1) and (2) of the child protection law, 1975 PA 238, MCL
18 722.638.

19 (b) The parent has been convicted of 1 or more of the
20 following:

21 (i) Murder of another child of the parent.

22 (ii) Voluntary manslaughter of another child of the parent.

23 (iii) Aiding or abetting in the murder of another child of the
24 parent or voluntary manslaughter of another child of the parent,
25 the attempted murder of the child or another child of the parent,
26 or the conspiracy or solicitation to commit the murder of the child
27 or another child of the parent.

1 (iv) A felony assault that results in serious bodily injury to
2 the child or another child of the parent.

3 (c) The parent has had rights to the child's siblings
4 involuntarily terminated.

5 (3) A permanency planning hearing shall be conducted to review
6 the status of the child and the progress being made toward the
7 child's return home or to show why the child should not be placed
8 in the permanent custody of the court. **THE COURT SHALL OBTAIN THE**
9 **CHILD'S VIEWS REGARDING THE PERMANENCY PLAN IN A MANNER THAT IS**
10 **APPROPRIATE TO THE CHILD'S AGE.**

11 (4) Not less than 14 days before a permanency planning
12 hearing, written notice of the hearing and a statement of the
13 purposes of the hearing, including a notice that the hearing may
14 result in further proceedings to terminate parental rights, shall
15 be served upon all of the following:

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

18 (b) The foster parent or custodian of the child.

19 (c) If the parental rights to the child have not been
20 terminated, the child's parents.

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

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

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

26 (g) The attorney for the child, the attorneys for each party,
27 and the prosecuting attorney if the prosecuting attorney has

1 appeared in the case.

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

3 (i) Other persons as the court may direct.

4 (5) If parental rights to the child have not been terminated
5 and the court determines at a permanency planning hearing that the
6 return of the child to his or her parent would not cause a
7 substantial risk of harm to the child's life, physical health, or
8 mental well-being, the court shall order the child returned to his
9 or her parent. In determining whether the return of the child would
10 cause a substantial risk of harm to the child, the court shall view
11 the failure of the parent to substantially comply with the terms
12 and conditions of the case service plan prepared under section 18f
13 of this chapter as evidence that return of the child to his or her
14 parent would cause a substantial risk of harm to the child's life,
15 physical health, or mental well-being. In addition to considering
16 conduct of the parent as evidence of substantial risk of harm, the
17 court shall consider any condition or circumstance of the child
18 that may be evidence that a return to the parent would cause a
19 substantial risk of harm to the child's life, physical health, or
20 mental well-being.

21 (6) If the court determines at a permanency planning hearing
22 that ~~the~~**A** child should not be returned to his or her parent, the
23 court ~~shall~~**MAY** order the agency to initiate proceedings to
24 terminate parental rights. ~~to the child not later than 42 days~~
25 ~~after the permanency planning hearing, unless the court finds that~~
26 ~~initiating the termination of parental rights to the child is~~
27 ~~clearly not in the child's best interests.~~ **EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE**

1 PROVIDED IN THIS SUBSECTION, IF THE CHILD HAS BEEN IN FOSTER CARE
2 UNDER THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE FOR 15 OF THE MOST RECENT 22
3 MONTHS, THE COURT SHALL ORDER THE AGENCY TO INITIATE PROCEEDINGS TO
4 TERMINATE PARENTAL RIGHTS. THE COURT IS NOT REQUIRED TO ORDER THE
5 AGENCY TO INITIATE PROCEEDINGS TO TERMINATE PARENTAL RIGHTS IF 1 OR
6 MORE OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY:

7 (A) THE CHILD IS BEING CARED FOR BY RELATIVES.

8 (B) THE CASE SERVICE PLAN DOCUMENTS A COMPELLING REASON FOR
9 DETERMINING THAT FILING A PETITION TO TERMINATE PARENTAL RIGHTS
10 WOULD NOT BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD. COMPELLING REASONS
11 FOR NOT FILING A PETITION TO TERMINATE PARENTAL RIGHTS INCLUDE, BUT
12 ARE NOT LIMITED TO, ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

13 (i) ADOPTION IS NOT THE APPROPRIATE PERMANENCY GOAL FOR THE
14 CHILD.

15 (ii) NO GROUNDS TO FILE A PETITION TO TERMINATE PARENTAL RIGHTS
16 EXIST.

17 (iii) THE CHILD IS AN UNACCOMPANIED REFUGEE MINOR AS DEFINED IN
18 45 CFR 400.11.

19 (iv) THERE ARE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL OBLIGATIONS OR COMPELLING
20 FOREIGN POLICY REASONS THAT PRECLUDE TERMINATING PARENTAL RIGHTS.

21 (C) THE STATE HAS NOT PROVIDED THE CHILD'S FAMILY, CONSISTENT
22 WITH THE TIME PERIOD IN THE CASE SERVICE PLAN, WITH THE SERVICES
23 THE STATE CONSIDERS NECESSARY FOR THE CHILD'S SAFE RETURN TO HIS OR
24 HER HOME, IF REASONABLE EFFORTS ARE REQUIRED.

25 (7) If the agency demonstrates under subsection (6) that
26 initiating the termination of parental rights to the child is
27 clearly not in the child's best interests, OR THE COURT DOES NOT

1 ORDER THE AGENCY TO INITIATE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE
2 CHILD UNDER SUBSECTION (6), then the court shall order ~~either~~ 1 OR
3 MORE of the following alternative placement plans:

4 (a) If the court determines that other permanent placement is
5 not possible, the child's placement in foster care shall continue
6 for a limited period to be stated by the court.

7 (b) If the court determines that it is in the child's best
8 interests based upon compelling reasons, the child's placement in
9 foster care may continue on a long-term basis.

10 (C) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (9), IF THE COURT DETERMINES THAT IT
11 IS IN THE CHILD'S BEST INTERESTS, APPOINT A GUARDIAN FOR THE CHILD,
12 WHICH GUARDIANSHIP MAY CONTINUE UNTIL THE CHILD IS EMANCIPATED.

13 (8) A GUARDIAN APPOINTED UNDER SUBSECTION (7) (C) HAS ALL OF
14 THE POWERS AND DUTIES SET FORTH UNDER SECTION 15 OF THE ESTATES AND
15 PROTECTED INDIVIDUALS CODE, 1998 PA 386, MCL 700.5215.

16 (9) IF A CHILD IS PLACED IN A GUARDIAN'S OR A PROPOSED
17 GUARDIAN'S HOME UNDER SUBSECTION (7) (C), THE COURT MAY ORDER THE
18 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO PERFORM AN INVESTIGATION AND FILE A
19 WRITTEN REPORT OF THE INVESTIGATION FOR A REVIEW UNDER SUBSECTION
20 (10) AND THE COURT SHALL ORDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO
21 DO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

22 (A) PERFORM A CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK WITHIN 7 DAYS.

23 (B) PERFORM A CENTRAL REGISTRY CLEARANCE WITHIN 7 DAYS.

24 (C) PERFORM A HOME STUDY AND FILE A COPY OF THE HOME STUDY
25 WITH THE COURT WITHIN 30 DAYS UNLESS A HOME STUDY HAS BEEN
26 PERFORMED WITHIN THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING 365 DAYS, UNDER SECTION
27 13A(9) OF THIS CHAPTER. IF A HOME STUDY HAS BEEN PERFORMED WITHIN

1 THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING 365 DAYS, A COPY OF THAT HOME STUDY SHALL
2 BE SUBMITTED TO THE COURT.

3 (10) THE COURT SHALL REVIEW A GUARDIANSHIP FOR A CHILD NOT
4 LATER THAN 365 DAYS AFTER THE GUARDIAN IS APPOINTED AND MAY REVIEW
5 A GUARDIANSHIP ANY TIME THE COURT CONSIDERS NECESSARY.

6 (11) ~~(8)~~—In making the determinations under this section, the
7 court shall consider any written or oral information concerning the
8 child from the child's parent, guardian, custodian, foster parent,
9 child caring institution, relative with whom the child is placed,
10 or guardian ad litem in addition to any other evidence, including
11 the appropriateness of parenting time, offered at the hearing.

12 (12) THE COURT MAY, ON ITS OWN MOTION OR UPON PETITION FROM
13 THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES OR THE CHILD'S LAWYER GUARDIAN AD
14 LITEM, HOLD A HEARING TO DETERMINE WHETHER A GUARDIANSHIP APPOINTED
15 UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE REVOKED.

16 (13) A GUARDIAN MAY PETITION THE COURT FOR PERMISSION TO
17 TERMINATE THE GUARDIANSHIP. A PETITION MAY INCLUDE A REQUEST FOR
18 APPOINTMENT OF A SUCCESSOR GUARDIAN.

19 (14) AFTER NOTICE AND HEARING ON A PETITION FOR REVOCATION OR
20 PERMISSION TO TERMINATE THE GUARDIANSHIP, IF THE COURT FINDS BY A
21 PREPONDERANCE OF EVIDENCE THAT CONTINUATION OF THE GUARDIANSHIP IS
22 NOT IN THE CHILD'S BEST INTERESTS, THE COURT SHALL REVOKE OR
23 TERMINATE THE GUARDIANSHIP AND APPOINT A SUCCESSOR GUARDIAN OR
24 RESTORE TEMPORARY LEGAL CUSTODY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
25 SERVICES.