



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2009 Wisconsin Act 185
[2009 Assembly Bill 485]

Children's Code Revisions

2009 Wisconsin Act 185 makes the following changes to ch. 48, Stats. (the Children's Code) and other statutes relating to the care of children:

- Eliminates an exception to the requirement that the juvenile court make a finding that reasonable efforts have been made to achieve the goal of the child's permanency plan.
- Requires a termination of parental rights (TPR) warning to be given when the juvenile court orders a child to be placed outside the home because the child has been adjudged delinquent, and when the juvenile court holds a hearing to review a child's permanency plan, in addition to other out-of-home placement situations that require the TPR warning.
- Makes a child care worker in any group home (and not just a group home that is authorized solely to provide a safe and structured living arrangement for children 12 years of age or over who are custodial parents or expectant mothers) a mandatory reporter of suspected child abuse or neglect.
- Conforms the Children's Code to the Juvenile Justice Code by requiring an agency to maintain the confidentiality of records kept or information received about an individual *who is or was* in its care or legal custody.
- Changes the term used throughout the statutes to describe care and supervision for children for less than 24 hours a day from "day care" to "child care."
- Moves the definition of "neglect" of a child to the definitions section of the Children's Code, thereby making it applicable throughout that code.

Effective date: March 30, 2010, except for the provisions relating to treatment foster homes, which take effect on the date stated in the notice provided by the Secretary of Children and Families and published

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.

in the Wisconsin Administrative Register under s. 48.62 (9) of the statutes; and the provisions changing the name of “day care” to “child care” in Wisconsin Act 12, which take effect July 5, 2010.

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