

PROBATE CODE OF 1939 (EXCERPT)
Act 288 of 1939

712A.13a Definitions; petition; release of juvenile; order removing abusive person from home; placement of child; duty of court to inform parties; criminal record check and central registry clearance; family-like setting; parenting time; review and modification of orders and plans; release of information; information included with order; "abuse" defined.

Sec. 13a. (1) As used in this section and sections 2, 6b, 13b, 17c, 17d, 18f, 19, 19a, 19b, and 19c of this chapter:

(a) "Agency" means a public or private organization, institution, or facility that is performing the functions under part D of title IV of the social security act, 42 USC 651 to 655, 656 to 657, 658a to 660, and 663 to 669b, or that is responsible under court order or contractual arrangement for a juvenile's care and supervision.

(b) "Agency case file" means the current file from the agency providing direct services to the child, that can include the child protective services file if the child has not been removed from the home or the family independence agency or contract agency foster care file as defined under 1973 PA 116, MCL 722.111 to 722.128.

(c) "Attorney" means, if appointed to represent a child in a proceeding under section 2(b) or (c) of this chapter, an attorney serving as the child's legal advocate in a traditional attorney-client relationship with the child, as governed by the Michigan rules of professional conduct. An attorney defined under this subdivision owes the same duties of undivided loyalty, confidentiality, and zealous representation of the child's expressed wishes as the attorney would to an adult client. For the purpose of a notice required under these sections, attorney includes a child's lawyer-guardian ad litem.

(d) "Case service plan" means the plan developed by an agency and prepared under section 18f of this chapter that includes services to be provided by and responsibilities and obligations of the agency and activities, responsibilities, and obligations of the parent. The case service plan may be referred to using different names than case service plan including, but not limited to, a parent/agency agreement or a parent/agency treatment plan and service agreement.

(e) "Foster care" means care provided to a juvenile in a foster family home, foster family group home, or child caring institution licensed or approved under 1973 PA 116, MCL 722.111 to 722.128, or care provided to a juvenile in a relative's home under a court order.

(f) "Guardian ad litem" means an individual whom the court appoints to assist the court in determining the child's best interests. A guardian ad litem does not need to be an attorney.

(g) "Lawyer-guardian ad litem" means an attorney appointed under section 17c of this chapter. A lawyer-guardian ad litem represents the child, and has the powers and duties, as set forth in section 17d of this chapter. The provisions of section 17d of this chapter also apply to a lawyer-guardian ad litem appointed under each of the following:

(i) Section 5213 or 5219 of the estates and protected individuals code, 1998 PA 386, MCL 700.5213 and 700.5219.

(ii) Section 4 of the child custody act of 1970, 1970 PA 91, MCL 722.24.

(iii) Section 10 of the child protection law, 1975 PA 238, MCL 722.630.

(h) "Nonparent adult" means a person who is 18 years of age or older and who, regardless of the person's domicile, meets all of the following criteria in relation to a child over whom the court takes jurisdiction under this chapter:

(i) Has substantial and regular contact with the child.

(ii) Has a close personal relationship with the child's parent or with a person responsible for the child's health or welfare.

(iii) Is not the child's parent or a person otherwise related to the child by blood or affinity to the third degree.

(i) "Permanent foster family agreement" means an agreement for a child 14 years old or older to remain with a particular foster family until the child is 18 years old under standards and requirements established by the family independence agency, which agreement is among all of the following:

(i) The child.

(ii) If the child is a temporary ward, the child's family.

(iii) The foster family.

(iv) The child placing agency responsible for the child's care in foster care.

(j) "Relative" means an individual who is at least 18 years of age and related to the child by blood, marriage, or adoption, as grandparent, great-grandparent, great-great-grandparent, aunt or uncle, great-aunt or

great-uncle, great-great-aunt or great-great-uncle, sibling, stepsibling, nephew or niece, first cousin or first cousin once removed, and the spouse of any of the above, even after the marriage has ended by death or divorce. A child may be placed with the parent of a man whom the court has found probable cause to believe is the putative father if there is no man with legally established rights to the child. A placement with the parent of a putative father under this subdivision is not to be construed as a finding of paternity or to confer legal standing on the putative father.

(2) If a juvenile is alleged to be within the provisions of section 2(b) of this chapter, the court may authorize a petition to be filed at the conclusion of the preliminary hearing or inquiry. The court may authorize the petition upon a showing of probable cause that 1 or more of the allegations in the petition are true and fall within the provisions of section 2(b) of this chapter. If a petition is before the court because the family independence agency is required to submit the petition under section 17 of the child protection law, 1975 PA 238, MCL 722.637, the court shall hold a hearing on the petition within 24 hours or on the next business day after the petition is submitted, at which hearing the court shall consider at least the matters governed by subsections (4) and (5).

(3) Except as provided in subsection (5), if a petition under subsection (2) is authorized, the court may release the juvenile in the custody of either of the juvenile's parents or the juvenile's guardian or custodian under reasonable terms and conditions necessary for either the juvenile's physical health or mental well-being.

(4) The court may order a parent, guardian, custodian, nonparent adult, or other person residing in a child's home to leave the home and, except as the court orders, not to subsequently return to the home if all of the following take place:

(a) A petition alleging abuse of the child by the parent, guardian, custodian, nonparent adult, or other person is authorized under subsection (2).

(b) The court after a hearing finds probable cause to believe the parent, guardian, custodian, nonparent adult, or other person committed the abuse.

(c) The court finds on the record that the presence in the home of the person alleged to have committed the abuse presents a substantial risk of harm to the child's life, physical health, or mental well-being.

(5) If a petition alleges abuse by a person described in subsection (4), regardless of whether the court orders the alleged abuser to leave the child's home under subsection (4), the court shall not leave the child in or return the child to the child's home or place the child with a person not licensed under 1973 PA 116, MCL 722.111 to 722.128, unless the court finds that the conditions of custody at the placement and with the individual with whom the child is placed are adequate to safeguard the child from the risk of harm to the child's life, physical health, or mental well-being.

(6) In determining whether to enter an order under subsection (4), the court may consider whether the parent who is to remain in the juvenile's home is married to the person to be removed or has a legal right to retain possession of the home.

(7) An order entered under subsection (4) may also contain 1 or more of the following terms or conditions:

(a) The court may require the alleged abusive parent to pay appropriate support to maintain a suitable home environment for the juvenile during the duration of the order.

(b) The court may order the alleged abusive person, according to terms the court may set, to surrender to a local law enforcement agency any firearms or other potentially dangerous weapons the alleged abusive person owns, possesses, or uses.

(c) The court may include any reasonable term or condition necessary for the juvenile's physical or mental well-being or necessary to protect the juvenile.

(8) If the court orders placement of the juvenile outside the juvenile's home, the court shall inform the parties of the following:

(a) That the agency has the responsibility to prepare an initial services plan within 30 days of the juvenile's placement.

(b) The general elements of an initial services plan as required by the rules promulgated under 1973 PA 116, MCL 722.111 to 722.128.

(c) That participation in the initial services plan is voluntary without a court order.

(9) Before or within 7 days after a child is placed in a relative's home, the family independence agency shall perform a criminal record check and central registry clearance. If the child is placed in the home of a relative, the court shall order a home study to be performed and a copy of the home study to be submitted to the court not more than 30 days after the placement.

(10) In determining placement of a juvenile pending trial, the court shall order the juvenile placed in the most family-like setting available consistent with the juvenile's needs.

(11) If a juvenile is removed from his or her home, the court shall permit the juvenile's parent to have

frequent parenting time with the juvenile. If parenting time, even if supervised, may be harmful to the juvenile, the court shall order the child to have a psychological evaluation or counseling, or both, to determine the appropriateness and the conditions of parenting time. The court may suspend parenting time while the psychological evaluation or counseling is conducted.

(12) Upon the motion of any party, the court shall review custody and placement orders and initial services plans pending trial and may modify those orders and plans as the court considers under this section are in the juvenile's best interests.

(13) The court shall include in an order placing a child in foster care an order directing the release of information concerning the child in accordance with this subsection. If a child is placed in foster care, within 10 days after receipt of a written request, the agency shall provide the person who is providing the foster care with copies of all initial, updated, and revised case service plans and court orders relating to the child and all of the child's medical, mental health, and education reports, including reports compiled before the child was placed with that person.

(14) In an order placing a child in foster care, the court shall include both of the following:

(a) An order that the child's parent, guardian, or custodian provide the supervising agency with the name and address of each of the child's medical providers.

(b) An order that each of the child's medical providers release the child's medical records. The order may specify providers by profession or type of institution.

(15) As used in this section, "abuse" means 1 or more of the following:

(a) Harm or threatened harm by a person to a juvenile's health or welfare that occurs through nonaccidental physical or mental injury.

(b) Engaging in sexual contact or sexual penetration as defined in section 520a of the Michigan penal code, 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.520a, with a juvenile.

(c) Sexual exploitation of a juvenile, which includes, but is not limited to, allowing, permitting, or encouraging a juvenile to engage in prostitution or allowing, permitting, encouraging, or engaging in photographing, filming, or depicting a juvenile engaged in a listed sexual act as defined in section 145c of the Michigan penal code, 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.145c.

(d) Maltreatment of a juvenile.

History: Add. 1988, Act 224, Eff. Apr. 1, 1989;—Am. 1993, Act 114, Imd. Eff. July 20, 1993;—Am. 1996, Act 16, Eff. June 1, 1996;—Am. 1996, Act 409, Eff. Jan. 1, 1998;—Am. 1997, Act 163, Eff. Mar. 31, 1998;—Am. 1998, Act 480, Eff. Mar. 1, 1999;—Am. 1998, Act 530, Eff. July 1, 1999;—Am. 2000, Act 55, Eff. Apr. 1, 2000;—Am. 2004, Act 475, Imd. Eff. Dec. 28, 2004.

Popular name: Probate Code

Popular name: Juvenile Code

PROBATE CODE OF 1939 (EXCERPT)
Act 288 of 1939

712A.13b Change in foster care placement.

Sec. 13b. (1) If a child under the court's jurisdiction under section 2(b) of this chapter, or under MCI jurisdiction, control, or supervision, is placed in foster care, the agency shall not change the child's placement except under 1 of the following circumstances:

(a) The person providing the foster care requests or agrees to the change.

(b) Even though the person providing the foster care objects to a proposed change in placement, 1 of the following applies:

(i) The court orders the child returned home.

(ii) The change in placement is less than 30 days after the child's initial removal from his or her home.

(iii) The change in placement is less than 90 days after the child's initial removal from his or her home, and the new placement is with a relative.

(iv) The change in placement is in accordance with other provisions of this section.

(2) Except as provided in subsections (1) and (7), before a change in foster care placement takes effect, the agency shall do all of the following:

(a) Notify the state court administrative office of the proposed change in placement.

(b) Notify the foster parents of the intended change in placement and inform them that, if they disagree with the decision, they may appeal within 3 days to a foster care review board. A foster parent may appeal orally, but must submit the appeal in writing immediately following the oral appeal. The agency shall provide the foster parents with the address and telephone number of a foster care review board with jurisdiction over the child.

(c) Maintain the current placement for not less than the time for appeal to the foster care review board and if a foster parent appeals, until the foster care review board determination.

(3) Upon receipt of an appeal from foster parents under subsection (2) or (7), the foster care review board shall investigate the change in foster care placement within 7 days and shall report its findings and recommendations within 3 days after completion of the investigation to the court or, if the child is under MCI jurisdiction, control, or supervision, the MCI superintendent, to the foster care parents, to the parents, and to the agency.

(4) If after investigation the foster care review board determines that the move is in the child's best interests, the agency may move the child.

(5) If after investigation the foster care review board determines that the move is not in the child's best interest, the agency shall maintain the current placement until a finding and order by the court or, if the child is under MCI jurisdiction, control, or supervision, a decision by the MCI superintendent. The agency shall not return a child to a placement from which the child was removed under subsection (7) unless the court orders that placement's restoration under subsection (6) or the MCI superintendent approves that placement's restoration under this subsection. The foster care review board shall notify the court, or if the child is under MCI jurisdiction, control, or supervision, the MCI superintendent, about the board's and agency's disagreement. The court shall set a hearing date and provide notice to the foster parents, each interested party, and the prosecuting attorney if the prosecuting attorney has appeared in the case. The court shall set the hearing no sooner than 7 and no later than 14 days after receipt of the notice from the foster care review board. The rules of evidence do not apply to a hearing required by this subsection. Within 14 days after notification under this subsection, the MCI superintendent shall make a decision regarding the child's placement and shall inform each interested party what the decision is.

(6) After hearing testimony from the agency and any other interested party and considering any other evidence bearing upon the proposed change in placement, the court shall order the continuation or restoration of the placement unless the court finds that the proposed change in placement is in the child's best interests.

(7) If the agency has reasonable cause to believe that the child has suffered sexual abuse or nonaccidental physical injury, or that there is substantial risk of harm to the child's emotional well-being, the agency may change the child's foster care placement without complying with subsection (1) or (2)(b) or (c). The agency shall include in the child's file documentation of its justification for action under this subsection. If a foster parent objects to the removal of a child under this subsection, he or she may appeal to the foster care review board within 3 days after the child's removal. The foster parent may appeal orally, but must submit the appeal in writing immediately following the oral appeal.

(8) At the time of or immediately following a child's removal under subsection (7), the agency shall inform the foster parents about the removal and that, if they disagree with the decision, they may appeal within 3 days to a foster care review board in the manner provided in subsection (7). The agency shall provide the

foster parents with the address and telephone number of a foster care review board with jurisdiction over the child.

History: Add. 1997, Act 163, Eff. July 1, 1998;—Am. 2000, Act 46, Imd. Eff. Mar. 27, 2000;—Am. 2004, Act 475, Imd. Eff. Dec. 28, 2004.

Popular name: Probate Code

Popular name: Juvenile Code

PROBATE CODE OF 1939 (EXCERPT)
Act 288 of 1939

712A.21 Petition for rehearing; affirming, modifying, or setting aside order; conduct of rehearing; order for supplemental disposition; applicability of section to criminal proceeding; “interested person” construed.

Sec. 21. (1) At any time while the juvenile is under the jurisdiction of the court, an interested person may file a petition in writing and under oath for a rehearing upon all matters coming within the provisions of this chapter. Upon the rehearing, the court may affirm, modify, or set aside any order reviewed under this section. If parental rights have been terminated by an order entered in the proceedings and custody of the juvenile has been removed from the parents, guardian, or other person, the petition for rehearing shall be filed not later than 20 days after the date of entry of the order terminating parental rights. The petition shall set forth in detail the place, manner, and all other information requested by the court in reference to the proposed future custody of the juvenile. The rehearing shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of this chapter relating to the conduct of original hearings. The court may enter an order for supplemental disposition while the juvenile remains under the court's jurisdiction.

(2) This section does not apply to a criminal proceeding under this chapter.

(3) As used in subsection (1), “interested person” includes a member of a local foster care review board established under Act No. 422 of the Public Acts of 1984, being sections 722.131 to 722.140 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, to which that juvenile's case has been assigned.

History: Add. 1944, 1st Ex. Sess., Act 54, Imd. Eff. Mar. 6, 1944;—CL 1948, 712A.21;—Am. 1958, Act 129, Eff. Sept. 13, 1958;—Am. 1965, Act 202, Imd. Eff. July 16, 1965;—Am. 1980, Act 499, Imd. Eff. Jan. 21, 1981;—Am. 1982, Act 330, Imd. Eff. Dec. 14, 1982;—Am. 1983, Act 105, Eff. Sept. 1, 1983;—Am. 1984, Act 420, Imd. Eff. Dec. 28, 1984;—Am. 1986, Act 170, Imd. Eff. July 7, 1986;—Am. 1989, Act 73, Imd. Eff. June 16, 1989;—Am. 1996, Act 262, Eff. Jan. 1, 1997.

Former law: See section 8 of Ch. XII of Act 288 of 1939; and CL 1929, § 12846.

Popular name: Probate Code

Popular name: Juvenile Code

CHILD CARE ORGANIZATIONS (EXCERPT)
Act 116 of 1973

722.118b Regulation of foster family homes or foster family group homes; variance.

Sec. 8b. (1) Upon the recommendation of a local foster care review board under section 7a of 1984 PA 422, MCL 722.137, or of a child placing agency, the department may grant a variance to 1 or more licensing rules or statutes regulating foster family homes or foster family group homes to allow the child and 1 or more siblings to remain or be placed together. If the department determines that such a placement would be in the child's best interests and that the variance from the particular licensing rules or statutes would not jeopardize the health or safety of a child residing in the foster family home or foster family group home, the department may grant the variance.

(2) The department's grant of a variance does not change a private home's licensure status.

History: Add. 1997, Act 165, Eff. Mar. 31, 1998.

Popular name: Act 116

Popular name: Child Care Licensing Act

FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARDS (EXCERPT)
Act 422 of 1984

722.132 State foster care review board program; creation; administration; access to and liaison with probate court; direct supervision of foster care services not authorized.

Sec. 2. (1) The state foster care review board program is created within the state court administrative office, to consist of staff necessary to perform the functions of the state board program as prescribed by this act. The state court administrative office shall administer the state foster care review program.

(2) The state court administrative office shall assist the state board program in developing and maintaining access to and liaison with the probate court in each county of this state that has a local board.

(3) This act shall not be construed to authorize either the state court administrative office or the local boards to provide direct supervision of foster care services.

History: 1984, Act 422, Imd. Eff. Dec. 28, 1984;—Am. 1986, Act 159, Imd. Eff. July 7, 1986;—Am. 1989, Act 74, Imd. Eff. June 16, 1989.

FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARDS (EXCERPT)
Act 422 of 1984

722.133 Duties of state court administrative office.

Sec. 3. The state court administrative office shall do all of the following:

- (a) Determine the number of children who are in foster care in this state.
- (b) Establish uniform policies and procedures for foster care review pursuant to this act, including criteria for the selection of foster care cases to be reviewed.
- (c) In accordance with section 4, determine the appropriate number of local boards necessary to meet the needs of children in foster care, and establish the jurisdiction of each local board.
- (d) Establish criteria and procedures for membership of a local board.
- (e) Solicit and receive applications for local board membership and make membership decisions.
- (f) Provide written notification to a local board of specific cases of children in foster care appropriate for review, and schedule those cases for review within the time intervals established under section 7.
- (g) Inform the child care organization, department of social services, or probate court that provided notification pursuant to section 6(a) of the local board to which the child is assigned.
- (h) Make a reasonable effort to provide written notification to each interested party of the date, time, and procedures for a review by a local board of a child in foster care.
- (i) Establish a system to monitor the status of each child who is in foster care and who has been assigned to a local board.
- (j) Analyze information gathered by local boards throughout this state.
- (k) Employ and provide state board program staff and provide local board volunteers.
- (l) Provide periodic training sessions for the members of each local board. The training sessions shall include instruction on the need to maintain confidentiality as required under section 8.
- (m) Establish an advisory committee consisting of representatives from child care organizations, local boards, and others as the state court administrator considers necessary to review the foster care system and to make recommendations concerning the foster care system to the appropriate groups and agencies. Not less than a majority of the advisory committee shall consist of representatives of the local boards.
- (n) Issue an annual report pursuant to section 9.
- (o) Perform those duties necessary to implement and review the state board program.

History: 1984, Act 422, Imd. Eff. Dec. 28, 1984;—Am. 1986, Act 159, Imd. Eff. July 7, 1986;—Am. 1989, Act 74, Imd. Eff. June 16, 1989.

FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARDS (EXCERPT)
Act 422 of 1984

722.134 Local foster care review board; creation; additional boards.

Sec. 4. (1) There is created a local foster care review board in each county or in multiple counties as provided in subsection (2). Subject to subsection (3), additional boards may be created in each county or in multiple counties at the discretion of the state court administrative office.

(2) At the direction of the state court administrative office, a single county local board or a board comprised of 1 or more counties is created.

(3) A county shall not have more than 15 local foster care review boards.

History: 1984, Act 422, Imd. Eff. Dec. 28, 1984;—Am. 1986, Act 159, Imd. Eff. July 7, 1986;—Am. 1989, Act 74, Imd. Eff. June 16, 1989;—Am. 1997, Act 170, Eff. Mar. 31, 1998.

FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARDS (EXCERPT)
Act 422 of 1984

722.135 Local foster care review board; membership; terms; persons ineligible for appointment to local board; election of chairperson and vice-chairperson; meetings; training sessions; reimbursement of expenses; removal of member.

Sec. 5. (1) A local board shall be composed of 5 members who reside within the jurisdiction of the local board, and who represent to the maximum extent possible the socio-economic, racial, and ethnic groups residing within that jurisdiction. A local board may have 1 or more alternate members who serve when an appointed board member is unavailable.

(2) A local board member shall serve a renewable 3-year term. Of the initial members, 3 members shall serve for 3 years, and 2 members shall serve for 2 years.

(3) A person employed by a child care organization, the family independence agency, or the court shall not be appointed to a local board.

(4) A local board shall elect 1 of its members to serve as chairperson and 1 to serve as vice-chairperson. Each shall serve for a term of 1 year.

(5) A local board shall meet at a place and time specified by the state court administrative office and approved by the chairperson of the local board.

(6) Each member of a local board shall attend an orientation training session and subsequent training sessions as required by the state court administrative office.

(7) The members of a local board shall serve without compensation. Reimbursement of expenses of members of the local board shall be in accordance with standard travel reimbursement rates established annually by the department of management and budget.

(8) A local board member may be removed for cause by the state court administrator.

History: 1984, Act 422, Imd. Eff. Dec. 28, 1984;—Am. 1986, Act 159, Imd. Eff. July 7, 1986;—Am. 1989, Act 74, Imd. Eff. June 16, 1989;—Am. 1997, Act 170, Eff. Mar. 31, 1998.

FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARDS (EXCERPT)
Act 422 of 1984

722.136 Duties of child care organization, department of social services, or probate court.

Sec. 6. A child care organization, the department of social services, or the probate court responsible for supervising a child in foster care shall do all of the following:

(a) Provide written notification monthly to the state court administrator of an admission into, discharge from, or transfer of a child in foster care.

(b) Upon request submit an initial placement plan; a list of names, addresses, and telephone numbers of interested parties; and progress reports to the appropriate local board at least once each 6 months, and cooperate with and furnish other information requested by the state court administrator. If foster care is purchased from a child placing agency or child caring institution, that organization shall cooperate in the preparation of an initial placement plan and progress reports.

History: 1984, Act 422, Imd. Eff. Dec. 28, 1984;—Am. 1986, Act 159, Imd. Eff. July 7, 1986;—Am. 1989, Act 74, Imd. Eff. June 16, 1989.

FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARDS (EXCERPT)
Act 422 of 1984

722.137 Powers and duties of local board.

Sec. 7. (1) A local board shall do all of the following:

(a) Review each initial placement plan submitted under section 6 for a child in foster care. The review shall be to determine whether the placement plan for the child contains at least all of the following information:

(i) The purpose for which the child has been placed in foster care and the reason that the child cannot be returned to his or her home immediately.

(ii) The length of time in which the purpose of foster care will be accomplished.

(iii) An assessment of the involvement of the legal parent and steps taken by the child care organization to involve the legal parent in the planning and implementation of the plan.

(iv) A description of the services which have been and are to be provided in order for the purpose of foster care to be accomplished.

(v) The number of foster care placements the child has experienced while in foster care, and the length of time of each foster care placement.

(vi) The person within the child care organization who is directly responsible for assuring that the plan is implemented.

(vii) The type of permanent placement recommended for the child.

(b) Review progress reports submitted under section 6(b) every 6 months following the initial review to determine whether the purpose for which the child has been placed in foster care, as described in the initial placement plan, is being achieved, and whether the plan continues to be appropriate, based on a review of all of the following:

(i) An assessment of the extent to which the child care organization is accomplishing the purpose of foster care as described in the placement plan.

(ii) Identification of the person within the child care organization who is directly responsible for assuring that the placement plan is implemented.

(iii) The length of time the child has been in foster care.

(iv) The number of foster care placements the child has experienced while in foster care and the length of time of each foster care placement.

(v) An assessment of the involvement of the legal parent and steps taken by the child care organization to involve the legal parent in planning and implementation of the plan.

(c) Whenever practicable, conduct reviews and submit reports, as required under subdivision (e), before the judicial review or rehearing mandated in section 19 of chapter XIIA of 1939 PA 288, MCL 712A.19.

(d) Review, at any time considered necessary by the local board, or at the request of the court or an interested party, the case and information submitted by a child care organization under section 6.

(e) Submit to the child care organization that submitted the initial placement plan and progress report and, if applicable, to the court, within 30 days after a review under subdivision (a) or (b), a written statement of findings and recommendations regarding the care, maintenance, and supervision of a child in foster care and the plan for permanent placement of the child. A copy of the statement may be sent to all interested parties. The local board may give information or file a petition for court action or rehearing under section 11 or 21 of chapter XIIA of 1939 PA 288, MCL 712A.11 and 712A.21.

(f) Hear an appeal of a proposed change in foster care placement as provided in section 13b of chapter XIIA of 1939 PA 288, MCL 712A.13b, and report to the court as required by that section.

(g) As part of the ongoing review process, select permanent wards for review from all of the following categories:

(i) Wards who are registered with the Michigan adoption resource exchange and who have been on hold status for not less than 12 months.

(ii) Wards who have not been registered with the Michigan adoption resource exchange, have been permanent wards for not less than 6 months, and do not have a documented permanency plan in place.

(iii) Wards who are less than 12 years of age and have been listed in the Michigan adoption resource exchange photo listing book for more than 6 months and for whom no family has been identified.

(h) Perform those duties necessary to implement this act.

(2) A local board may limit the review to a written report or request a personal appearance of an interested party, as considered necessary by the local board.

(3) If interested parties are provided with a copy of the findings and recommendations of the local board, the local board shall allow the interested parties to submit written comments. Upon approval of a local board, an interested party may make a personal appearance before the local board in connection with the foster care

case.

(4) A local board may make recommendations to the state court administrative office regarding issues in foster care policy and procedure and the functions of child care organizations and the court.

(5) A local board shall compile and maintain statistics and make findings regarding its reviews of permanent wards under subsection (1)(g), including, but not limited to, identification of any barriers to permanency.

(6) The Michigan adoption resource exchange shall cooperate with the foster care review board program and submit copies of their file material and registration documentation as requested by the foster care review board program.

History: 1984, Act 422, Imd. Eff. Dec. 28, 1984;—Am. 1986, Act 159, Imd. Eff. July 7, 1986;—Am. 1989, Act 74, Imd. Eff. June 16, 1989;—Am. 1997, Act 170, Eff. July 1, 1998.

FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARDS (EXCERPT)
Act 422 of 1984

722.137a Placement of siblings; variance from licensing rules or statutes.

Sec. 7a. If the case of a child who has at least 1 sibling is otherwise before a local board, the local board may evaluate the child's placement in a foster family home or foster family group home that would allow the child and 1 or more siblings to remain or be placed together, but would also require obtaining a variance from 1 or more licensing rules or statutes under section 8b of 1973 PA 116, MCL 722.118b. If the local board determines that such a placement would be in the child's best interests and that the variance from the particular licensing rules or statutes would not jeopardize the health or safety of a child residing in the foster family home or foster family group home, the local board shall recommend the variance to the department of consumer and industry services as provided in section 8b of 1973 PA 116, MCL 722.118b.

History: Add. 1997, Act 170, Eff. Mar. 31, 1998.

FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARDS (EXCERPT)
Act 422 of 1984

722.138 Confidentiality.

Sec. 8. (1) Records regarding specific children and their parents and relatives shall be confidential. Disclosure of this confidential information shall be properly safeguarded by the local board, the staff of the state board, and the state court administrator.

(2) A person who discloses confidential information contained in records, reports, and plans prepared pursuant to this act is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(3) Unauthorized disclosure of information contained in records and reports made pursuant to this act by a member of a local board shall be grounds for removal from the board.

History: 1984, Act 422, Imd. Eff. Dec. 28, 1984;—Am. 1989, Act 74, Imd. Eff. June 16, 1989.

FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARDS (EXCERPT)
Act 422 of 1984

722.139 Annual report.

Sec. 9. (1) The state court administrator shall publish an annual report of the state board program created by this act and shall make the annual report available to the public. Additionally, the state court administrator shall submit the annual report to the legislature and the governor.

(2) The annual report required by subsection (1) shall include, but is not limited to, all of the following:

(a) An evaluative summary, supplemented by applicable quantitative data, of the activities and functioning of each local board during the preceding year.

(b) An evaluative summary, supplemented by applicable quantitative data, of the activities and functioning of the aggregate of all local boards in the state during the preceding year.

(c) An identification of problems that impede the timely placement of children in a permanent placement and recommendations for improving the timely placement of children in a permanent placement.

(d) The statistics and findings compiled under section 7(5).

History: 1984, Act 422, Imd. Eff. Dec. 28, 1984;—Am. 1986, Act 159, Imd. Eff. July 7, 1986;—Am. 1989, Act 74, Imd. Eff. June 16, 1989;—Am. 1997, Act 170, Eff. Mar. 31, 1998.