

5032

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

April 27, 2009

Introduced by Sen. HASSELL-THOMPSON -- read twice and ordered printed,
and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Children and
Families

AN ACT to amend the social services law and the family court act, in
relation to the definition of a neglected child

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEM-
BLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Subparagraph (B) of paragraph (i) of subdivision 4-a of
2 section 371 of the social services law, as amended by chapter 984 of the
3 laws of 1981, is amended to read as follows:
4 (B) in providing the child with proper supervision or guardianship, by
5 unreasonably inflicting or allowing to be inflicted harm, or a substan-
6 tial risk thereof, including the infliction of excessive corporal
7 punishment; or by misusing a drug or drugs; or by misusing alcoholic
8 beverages to the extent that he loses self-control of his actions; or by
9 any other acts of a similarly serious nature requiring the aid of the
10 court; provided, however, that where the respondent is voluntarily and
11 regularly participating in a rehabilitative program, evidence that the
12 respondent has repeatedly misused a drug or drugs or alcoholic beverages
13 to the extent that he loses self-control of his actions shall not estab-
14 lish that the child is a neglected child in the absence of evidence
15 establishing that the child's physical, mental or emotional condition
16 has been impaired or is in imminent danger of becoming impaired as set
17 forth in THIS paragraph [(i) of this subdivision], AND PROVIDED FURTHER,
18 THAT A CHILD SHALL NOT BE FOUND TO BE A NEGLECTED CHILD AS A RESULT OF
19 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BY THE VICTIM OF THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNLESS THE
20 CHILD WAS PRESENT DURING THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, IT IS ESTABLISHED BY
21 EXPERT TESTIMONY THAT THE CHILD WAS HARMED BY THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, THE
22 VICTIM WAS PROVIDED WITH PREVENTIVE SERVICES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED
23 TO, REMOVAL OF THE BATTERER, ARREST AND PROSECUTION OF THE BATTERER,

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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1 PROVISION OF SAFE HOUSING AND ALTERNATIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT, AND THE
2 VICTIM FAILED TO UTILIZE SUCH SERVICES; or

3 S 2. Subparagraph (B) of paragraph (i) of subdivision (f) of section
4 1012 of the family court act, as amended by chapter 984 of the laws of
5 1981, is amended to read as follows:

6 (B) in providing the child with proper supervision or guardianship, by
7 unreasonably inflicting or allowing to be inflicted harm, or a substan-
8 tial risk thereof, including the infliction of excessive corporal
9 punishment; or by misusing a drug or drugs; or by misusing alcoholic
10 beverages to the extent that he loses self-control of his actions; or by
11 any other acts of a similarly serious nature requiring the aid of the
12 court; provided, however, that where the respondent is voluntarily and
13 regularly participating in a rehabilitative program, evidence that the
14 respondent has repeatedly misused a drug or drugs or alcoholic beverages
15 to the extent that he loses self-control of his actions shall not estab-
16 lish that the child is a neglected child in the absence of evidence
17 establishing that the child's physical, mental or emotional condition
18 has been impaired or is in imminent danger of becoming impaired as set
19 forth in THIS paragraph [(i) of this subdivision], AND PROVIDED FURTHER,
20 THAT A CHILD SHALL NOT BE FOUND TO BE A NEGLECTED CHILD AS A RESULT OF
21 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BY THE VICTIM OF THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNLESS THE
22 CHILD WAS PRESENT DURING THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, IT IS ESTABLISHED BY
23 EXPERT TESTIMONY THAT THE CHILD WAS HARMED BY THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, THE
24 VICTIM WAS PROVIDED WITH PREVENTIVE SERVICES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED
25 TO, REMOVAL OF THE BATTERER, ARREST AND PROSECUTION OF THE BATTERER,
26 PROVISION OF SAFE HOUSING AND ALTERNATIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT, AND THE
27 VICTIM FAILED TO UTILIZE SUCH SERVICES; or

28 S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.