

# STATE OF NEW YORK

4982

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

February 10, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. HEVESI, EPSTEIN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Children and Families

AN ACT to amend the family court act, the social services law and the executive law, in relation to raising the lower age of juvenile delinquency jurisdiction from age seven to age twelve and to establish differential response programs for children under the age of twelve

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 301.2 of the family court act, as  
2 amended by section 56 of part WWW of chapter 59 of the laws of 2017, is  
3 amended to read as follows:

4 1. "Juvenile delinquent" means a person [~~over seven and less than~~  
5 ~~sixteen years of age, or commencing on October first, two thousand eigh-~~  
6 ~~teen a person over seven and less than seventeen years of age, and~~  
7 ~~commencing October first, two thousand nineteen a person over seven~~] at  
8 least twelve and less than eighteen years of age, who, having committed  
9 an act that would constitute a crime, or a violation, where such  
10 violation is alleged to have occurred in the same transaction or occur-  
11 rence of the alleged criminal act, if committed by an adult, (a) is not  
12 criminally responsible for such conduct by reason of infancy, or (b) is  
13 the defendant in an action ordered removed from a criminal court to the  
14 family court pursuant to article seven hundred twenty-five of the crimi-  
15 nal procedure law.

16 § 2. Subdivision 8 of section 301.2 of the family court act, as  
17 amended by section 57 of part WWW of chapter 59 of the laws of 2017, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

19 8. "Designated felony act" means an act which, if done by an adult,  
20 would be a crime: (i) defined in sections 125.27 (murder in the first  
21 degree); 125.25 (murder in the second degree); 135.25 (kidnapping in the  
22 first degree); or 150.20 (arson in the first degree) of the penal law  
23 committed by a person thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, [~~or~~] sixteen, or

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

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1 [~~commencing October first, two thousand nineteen,~~] seventeen years of  
2 age; or such conduct committed as a sexually motivated felony, where  
3 authorized pursuant to section 130.91 of the penal law; (ii) defined in  
4 sections 120.10 (assault in the first degree); 125.20 (manslaughter in  
5 the first degree); 130.35 (rape in the first degree); 130.50 (criminal  
6 sexual act in the first degree); 130.70 (aggravated sexual abuse in the  
7 first degree); 135.20 (kidnapping in the second degree) but only where  
8 the abduction involved the use or threat of use of deadly physical  
9 force; 150.15 (arson in the second degree) or 160.15 (robbery in the  
10 first degree) of the penal law committed by a person thirteen, fourteen,  
11 fifteen, [~~or~~] sixteen, or [~~, commencing October first, two thousand nine-~~  
12 ~~teen,~~] seventeen years of age; or such conduct committed as a sexually  
13 motivated felony, where authorized pursuant to section 130.91 of the  
14 penal law; (iii) defined in the penal law as an attempt to commit murder  
15 in the first or second degree or kidnapping in the first degree commit-  
16 ted by a person thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, [~~or~~] sixteen, or [~~commenc-~~  
17 ~~ing October first, two thousand nineteen,~~] seventeen years of age; or  
18 such conduct committed as a sexually motivated felony, where authorized  
19 pursuant to section 130.91 of the penal law; (iv) defined in section  
20 140.30 (burglary in the first degree); subdivision one of section 140.25  
21 (burglary in the second degree); subdivision two of section 160.10  
22 (robbery in the second degree) of the penal law; or section 265.03 of  
23 the penal law, where such machine gun or such firearm is possessed on  
24 school grounds, as that phrase is defined in subdivision fourteen of  
25 section 220.00 of the penal law committed by a person fourteen or  
26 fifteen years of age; or such conduct committed as a sexually motivated  
27 felony, where authorized pursuant to section 130.91 of the penal law;  
28 (v) defined in section 120.05 (assault in the second degree) or 160.10  
29 (robbery in the second degree) of the penal law committed by a person  
30 fourteen, fifteen, [~~or~~] sixteen or [~~, commencing October first, two thou-~~  
31 ~~sand nineteen,~~] seventeen years of age but only where there has been a  
32 prior finding by a court that such person has previously committed an  
33 act which, if committed by an adult, would be the crime of assault in  
34 the second degree, robbery in the second degree or any designated felony  
35 act specified in paragraph (i), (ii), or (iii) of this subdivision  
36 regardless of the age of such person at the time of the commission of  
37 the prior act; (vi) other than a misdemeanor committed by a person at  
38 least [~~seven but less than seventeen years of age, and commencing Octo-~~  
39 ~~ber first, two thousand nineteen, a person at least seven]~~ twelve but  
40 less than eighteen years of age, but only where there [~~has~~] have been  
41 two prior findings by the court that such person has committed a prior  
42 felony.

43 § 3. Subdivision 3 of section 304.1 of the family court act, as  
44 amended by section 59 of part WWW of chapter 59 of the laws of 2017, is  
45 amended to read as follows:

46 3. The detention of a child under [~~ten~~] thirteen years of age in a  
47 secure detention facility shall not be directed under any of the  
48 provisions of this article.

49 § 4. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 306.1 of the family  
50 court act, as amended by chapter 645 of the laws of 1996, is amended to  
51 read as follows:

52 (a) the child is [~~eleven~~] at least twelve years of age [~~or older~~] and  
53 the crime which is the subject of the arrest or which is charged in the  
54 petition constitutes a class A or B felony; or

55 § 5. Subdivision 12 of section 308.1 of the family court act, as  
56 added by chapter 920 of the laws of 1982, is amended to read as follows:

1 12. The probation service shall certify to the division of criminal  
2 justice services and to the appropriate police department or law  
3 enforcement agency whenever it adjusts a case in which the potential  
4 respondent's fingerprints were taken pursuant to section 306.1 in any  
5 manner other than the filing of a petition for juvenile delinquency for  
6 an act which, if committed by an adult, would constitute a felony,  
7 provided, however, in the case of a child [~~eleven or~~] twelve years of  
8 age, such certification shall be made only if the act would constitute a  
9 class A or B felony.

10 § 6. Paragraph (f) of subdivision 2 of section 353.2 of the family  
11 court act, as amended by chapter 124 of the laws of 1993, is amended to  
12 read as follows:

13 (f) make restitution or perform services for the public good pursuant  
14 to section 353.6[~~, provided the respondent is over ten years of age~~];

15 § 7. The opening paragraph of subdivision 1 of section 353.6 of the  
16 family court act, as amended by chapter 877 of the laws of 1983, is  
17 amended to read as follows:

18 At the conclusion of the dispositional hearing [~~in cases involving~~  
19 ~~respondents over ten years of age~~] the court may:

20 § 8. Subdivisions 1, 2, 6 and 7 of section 354.1 of the family court  
21 act, subdivision 1 as added by chapter 920 of the laws of 1982 and  
22 subdivisions 2, 6 and 7 as amended by chapter 645 of the laws of 1996,  
23 are amended to read as follows:

24 1. If a person whose fingerprints, palmprints or photographs were  
25 taken pursuant to section 306.1 or was initially fingerprinted as a  
26 juvenile offender and the action is subsequently removed to a family  
27 court pursuant to article seven hundred twenty-five of the criminal  
28 procedure law is adjudicated to be a juvenile delinquent for a felony,  
29 the family court shall forward or cause to be forwarded to the division  
30 of criminal justice services notification of such adjudication and such  
31 related information as may be required by such division, provided,  
32 however, in the case of a person [~~eleven or~~] twelve years of age such  
33 notification shall be provided only if the act upon which the adjudi-  
34 cation is based would constitute a class A or B felony.

35 2. If a person whose fingerprints, palmprints or photographs were  
36 taken pursuant to section 306.1 or was initially fingerprinted as a  
37 juvenile offender and the action is subsequently removed to family court  
38 pursuant to article seven hundred twenty-five of the criminal procedure  
39 law has had all petitions disposed of by the family court in any manner  
40 other than an adjudication of juvenile delinquency for a felony, but in  
41 the case of acts committed when such person was [~~eleven or~~] twelve years  
42 of age which would constitute a class A or B felony only, all such fing-  
43 erprints, palmprints, photographs, and copies thereof, and all informa-  
44 tion relating to such allegations obtained by the division of criminal  
45 justice services pursuant to section 306.1 shall be destroyed forthwith.  
46 The clerk of the court shall notify the commissioner of the division of  
47 criminal justice services and the heads of all police departments and  
48 law enforcement agencies having copies of such records, who shall  
49 destroy such records without unnecessary delay.

50 6. If a person fingerprinted pursuant to section 306.1 and subsequent-  
51 ly adjudicated a juvenile delinquent for a felony, but in the case of  
52 acts committed when such a person was [~~eleven or~~] twelve years of age  
53 which would constitute a class A or B felony only, is subsequently  
54 convicted of a crime, all fingerprints and related information obtained  
55 by the division of criminal justice services pursuant to such section  
56 and not destroyed pursuant to subdivisions two, five and seven or subdi-

1 vision twelve of section 308.1 shall become part of such division's  
2 permanent adult criminal record for that person, notwithstanding section  
3 381.2 or 381.3.

4 7. When a person fingerprinted pursuant to section 306.1 and subse-  
5 quently adjudicated a juvenile delinquent for a felony, but in the case  
6 of acts committed when such person was [~~eleven or~~] twelve years of age  
7 which would constitute a class A or B felony only, reaches the age of  
8 twenty-one, or has been discharged from placement under this act for at  
9 least three years, whichever occurs later, and has no criminal  
10 convictions or pending criminal actions which ultimately terminate in a  
11 criminal conviction, all fingerprints, palmprints, photographs, and  
12 related information and copies thereof obtained pursuant to section  
13 306.1 in the possession of the division of criminal justice services,  
14 any police department, law enforcement agency or any other agency shall  
15 be destroyed forthwith. The division of criminal justice services shall  
16 notify the agency or agencies which forwarded fingerprints to such divi-  
17 sion pursuant to section 306.1 of their obligation to destroy those  
18 records in their possession. In the case of a pending criminal action  
19 which does not terminate in a criminal conviction, such records shall be  
20 destroyed forthwith upon such determination.

21 § 9. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 409-a of the social  
22 services law, as amended by chapter 87 of the laws of 1993, subparagraph  
23 (i) as amended by chapter 342 of the laws of 2010, and subparagraph (ii)  
24 as amended by section 22 of part C of chapter 83 of the laws of 2002, is  
25 amended to read as follows:

26 (a) A social services official shall provide preventive services to a  
27 child and his or her family, in accordance with the family's service  
28 plan as required by section four hundred nine-e of this chapter and the  
29 social services district's child welfare services plan submitted and  
30 approved pursuant to section four hundred nine-d of this chapter, upon a  
31 finding by such official that (i) the child will be placed, returned to  
32 or continued in foster care unless such services are provided and that  
33 it is reasonable to believe that by providing such services the child  
34 will be able to remain with or be returned to his or her family, and for  
35 a former foster care youth under the age of twenty-one who was previous-  
36 ly placed in the care and custody or custody and guardianship of the  
37 local commissioner of social services or other officer, board or depart-  
38 ment authorized to receive children as public charges where it is  
39 reasonable to believe that by providing such services the former foster  
40 care youth will avoid a return to foster care or (ii) the child is the  
41 subject of a petition under article seven of the family court act [~~, or~~  
42 ~~has been determined by the assessment service established pursuant to~~  
43 ~~section two hundred forty-three-a of the executive law,~~] or by the  
44 probation service [~~where no such assessment service has been desig-~~  
45 ~~nated~~], to be at risk of being the subject of such a petition, and the  
46 social services official determines that the child is at risk of place-  
47 ment into foster care or (iii) the child is under the age of twelve, and  
48 their behavior but for their age would bring them within the jurisdic-  
49 tion of the family court pursuant to article three of the family court  
50 act, and the social services official determines that the child is at  
51 risk of placement into foster care. Such finding shall be entered in the  
52 child's uniform case record established and maintained pursuant to  
53 section four hundred nine-f of this [~~chapter~~] article. The commissioner  
54 shall promulgate regulations to assist social services officials in  
55 making determinations of eligibility for mandated preventive services  
56 pursuant to this subparagraph.

1 § 10. Article 6 of the social services law is amended by adding a new  
2 title 12-A to read as follows:

3 TITLE 12-A

4 DIFFERENTIAL RESPONSE PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN UNDER TWELVE

5 Section 458-o. Differential response programs for children under twelve.

6 § 458-o. Differential response programs for children under twelve. 1.  
7 Each local social services district, upon the approval of the office of  
8 children and family services, shall establish a program that implements  
9 differential responses to provide services to children under twelve  
10 years of age whose behavior, but for their age, would bring them within  
11 the jurisdiction of the family court pursuant to article three of the  
12 family court act. Such programs shall establish and utilize appropriate  
13 assessments and services for youth, in order to help reduce future  
14 interaction with the juvenile justice and/or child welfare systems. Such  
15 assessments shall be used to determine what, if any, services are need-  
16 ed, and such services shall utilize the least restrictive intervention  
17 protocols available. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the  
18 contrary, the provisions of this section shall apply only to those cases  
19 involving children under twelve years of age whose behavior but for  
20 their age would bring them within the jurisdiction of the family court  
21 pursuant to article three of the family court act.

22 2. To establish a differential response program, each local social  
23 services district, as part of their district-wide child welfare services  
24 plan, as defined in section four hundred nine-d of this article, shall  
25 include a plan to serve the youth described in subdivision one of this  
26 section while utilizing certain criteria to be promulgated in regulation  
27 by the office of children and family services including but not limited  
28 to the following:

29 (a) the types of assessment to determine whether services are neces-  
30 sary, services and interventions to be provided to children and families  
31 included in the differential response program for such children and a  
32 description of how the services will be offered. Such services shall  
33 include, but not be limited to, those services set forth in section four  
34 hundred nine-a of this article and section four hundred fifty-eight-m of  
35 this article;

36 (b) a description of the process to be followed for planning and moni-  
37 toring the services provided under the differential responses;

38 (c) a description of how the differential response program will  
39 enhance the ability of the district to reduce future interactions with  
40 the juvenile justice and child welfare systems, ensure the safety and  
41 well-being of such children, and ways to ensure such program addresses  
42 adverse impacts on minority communities;

43 (d) a description of the training that will be provided to district  
44 and any non-district staff to be used in the differential response  
45 program including, but not limited to, a description of the training set  
46 forth in section eight hundred forty of the executive law for police  
47 officers whose main responsibilities are juveniles and the laws pertain-  
48 ing thereto; and

49 (e) a description of any additional funding that may be utilized to  
50 enhance the differential response program.

51 3. (a) All records created as part of the differential response  
52 program for children described in subdivision one of this section shall  
53 include, but not be limited to, the initial and any subsequent reasons  
54 why a differential response is recommended for a child, documentation of  
55 all services offered and accepted by such child and their family, the

1 plan for supportive services for the child and their family, and all  
2 evaluations and assessments of the child's progress.

3 (b) Records created under the differential response program for the  
4 children described in subdivision one of this section shall be main-  
5 tained for five years after a child is referred to a local social  
6 services district for intervention as described in this section or until  
7 the child reaches the age of twelve, whichever is sooner.

8 (c) All reports assigned to, and records created under, the differen-  
9 tial response program, including but not limited to reports made or  
10 written as well as any other information obtained or photographs taken  
11 concerning such reports or records shall be confidential, shall be made  
12 available only to an entity listed below which has been involved in the  
13 particular youth's service delivery, and shall not be redisclosed,  
14 except as authorized pursuant to subparagraph (vi) of this paragraph,  
15 utilizing non-identifying aggregated information. Such entities shall  
16 include:

17 (i) staff of the office of children and family services and persons  
18 designated by the office of children and family services;

19 (ii) the social services district responsible for the differential  
20 response program for children described in subdivision one of this  
21 section;

22 (iii) a community-based agency that has a contract with the social  
23 services district to carry out activities for the district under the  
24 differential response program;

25 (iv) a provider of services under the differential response program;

26 (v) the child, or to their parent or legal guardian, and the attorney  
27 for the child; and

28 (vi) the office of children and family services and social services  
29 districts for the sole purpose of preparing the report required pursuant  
30 to subdivision five of this section.

31 4. Expenditures by a social services district pursuant to this section  
32 shall be reimbursable from the annual appropriations available for  
33 social services district expenditures for child welfare services which  
34 shall include, but not be limited to, preventive services provided  
35 pursuant to section four hundred nine-a of this article, funding for  
36 family support services programs as set forth in section four hundred  
37 fifty-eight-n of this article and supervision and treatment services for  
38 juveniles program as set forth in section five hundred twenty-nine-b of  
39 the executive law. Nothing shall preclude a social services district  
40 from seeking private funds for support of their differential response  
41 programs.

42 5. The office of children and family services shall report on the  
43 differential response programs established pursuant to this section,  
44 including the local social services district's efforts to reduce future  
45 interactions with the juvenile justice and child welfare systems, how  
46 the local social districts are ensuring the safety and well-being of  
47 such children, and how the program is addressing adverse impacts on  
48 minority communities, on an annual basis beginning one year from the  
49 start of every local social services district's differential response  
50 program.

51 § 11. Subdivision 1 of section 458-m of the social services law, as  
52 added by section 18-b of part K of chapter 56 of the laws of 2019, is  
53 amended to read as follows:

54 1. As used in this title, the term "family support services programs"  
55 shall mean a program established pursuant to this title to provide  
56 community-based supportive services to children and families with the

1 goal of (i) preventing a child from being adjudicated a person in need  
2 of supervision and help prevent the out of home placements of such youth  
3 or (ii) preventing a petition from being filed under article seven of  
4 the family court act, or (iii) to help reduce future interaction with  
5 the juvenile justice and/or child welfare system for children under  
6 twelve years of age whose behavior but for their age would bring them  
7 within the jurisdiction of the family court pursuant to article three of  
8 the family court act.

9 § 12. Paragraph (j) of subdivision 1 of section 840 of the executive  
10 law, as amended by chapter 617 of the laws of 1990, is amended to read  
11 as follows:

12 (j) (1) Development, maintenance and dissemination of written policies  
13 and procedures pursuant to title six of article six of the social  
14 services law and applicable provisions of article ten of the family  
15 court act, regarding the mandatory reporting of child abuse or neglect,  
16 reporting procedures and obligations of persons required to report,  
17 provisions for taking a child into protective custody, mandatory report-  
18 ing of deaths, immunity from liability, penalties for failure to report  
19 and obligations for the provision of services and procedures necessary  
20 to safeguard the life or health of the child; (2) establishment and  
21 implementation on an ongoing basis, of a training program for all  
22 current and new police officers regarding the policies and procedures  
23 established pursuant to this paragraph; and (3) establishment of a  
24 training program for police officers whose main responsibilities are  
25 juveniles and the laws pertaining thereto, including children under  
26 twelve years of age whose behavior but for their age would bring them  
27 within the jurisdiction of the family court pursuant to article three of  
28 the family court act, which training program shall be successfully  
29 completed before such officers are accredited pursuant to section eight  
30 hundred forty-six-h of this chapter.

31 § 13. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become  
32 a law; provided, however, that the amendments to subparagraph (ii) of  
33 paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 409-a of the social services  
34 law made by section nine of this act shall not affect the expiration of  
35 such subparagraph and shall be deemed to expire therewith.