

U.S. CHILD PROTECTION LEGISLATION



ACT

Participant Resource Notebook

Permanence in Context Resources

1935: Child Welfare Service Program, Title IV-B of the Social Security Act

Provided grants to states to support protective services.

1961: Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) Foster Care Payments to States for Children in Foster Care

Provided assistance to children's families who were ADC eligible; funds went mostly to foster parents for board and care.

1974: The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), P.L. 93-247

Offered funding to prevent, identify, treat child abuse and neglect; created the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect; developed standards for reporting child abuse and established a national clearinghouse.

1975: The Social Services Block Grant, Title XX of the Social Security Act

Provided funds that states could use for social services for low-income individuals; some services for child protection, foster care, and adoption.

1978: The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), P.L. 95-608

Strengthens the role of tribal government in determining custody of Indian children, specifying preference for extended family; funding for tribes and Indian organizations to deliver preventive services was authorized but not funded.

1980: The Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act, P.L. 96-272

Provided funding for states that offer out-of-home care prevention services and reunification services; funding for special needs adoptions.

1986: Independent Living Preparation Act

Provided services for youth in foster care, ages 16+.

1993: The Family Preservation and Support Initiative, P.L. 103-66

Provided funding for family preservation planning and support.

1994: The Multi-Ethnic Placement Act (MEPA), P.L. 103-382

Requires that ethnicity (race) cannot be a factor to withhold a family placement for a child.

1997: The Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA), P.L. 105-89

Reauthorized and increased funding for the family preservation and support program, changing its name to "Promoting Safe and Stable Families"; requires states to move children from foster care more rapidly by terminating parental rights more quickly and encouraging adoption.

1999: Foster Care Independence Act

Doubled funding for independent living program and extends Medicaid coverage for youth in foster care to age 21.



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2001: Safe and Stable Families Amendments Act, P.L. 107-33

Amends independent living program to provide funding for education and training of former foster youth.

2002: The Hope for Children Act, P.L. 107-16

Provides increased tax credits for families who adopt children with special needs.

2003: Adoption Promotion Act, P.L. 108-145

Originally included in the Adoption Incentive Program in ASFA, provides financial incentives to states to finalize adoption of children from foster care, with additional incentives for foster children with special needs.

2003: Adoption Opportunities Program, Title II of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, P.L. 108-145

Provides grants for demonstration projects that eliminate barriers to adoption, particularly of children with special needs.

2005: Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, P.L. 109-171

Title VII, Subtitle D authorizes appropriations for FY2006 for safe and stable families programs; and revises eligibility requirements for foster care maintenance payments and adoption assistance.

2006: Child and Family Services Act of 2006, P.L. 109-288

Reauthorizes the Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) program through FY2011. Although the majority of funding supports general child welfare, a portion of PSSF funds must be spent on post adoption support services.

2006: Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, P.L. 109-248

Acts to protect children from sexual exploitation and violent crime, to prevent child abuse and child pornography, and to promote Internet safety. Title I, Subtitle C requires national criminal background and child abuse registry checks before approval of any foster or adoptive placement.

2006: Safe and Timely Interstate Placement of Foster Children Act of 2006, P.L. 109-239

Requires each State plan for foster care and adoption assistance to provide that the State shall have procedures for orderly and timely interstate placement of children; complete home studies requested by another State within a specified period; and accept home studies received from another State.

These are Public Laws and you may find further information on the Library of Congress' legislative information website: <http://thomas.loc.gov>