

By: Campos

H.B. No. 2704

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to service plans in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 263.101, Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 263.101. DEPARTMENT TO FILE SERVICE PLAN. Except as provided by Section 262.2015, not later than the 30th [~~45th~~] day after the date the court renders a temporary order appointing the department as temporary managing conservator of a child under Chapter 262, the department shall file a service plan.

SECTION 2. Section 263.102, Family Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (f) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a) The service plan must:

- (1) be specific;
- (2) be in writing in a language that the parents understand, or made otherwise available;
- (3) be prepared by the department in conference with the child's parents and any legal counsel retained by the child's parents;
- (4) state appropriate deadlines;
- (5) specify the primary permanency goal and at least one alternative permanency goal;

1 (6) state steps that are necessary to:

2 (A) return the child to the child's home if the
3 placement is in foster care;

4 (B) enable the child to remain in the child's
5 home with the assistance of a service plan if the placement is in
6 the home under the department's supervision; or

7 (C) otherwise provide a permanent safe placement
8 for the child;

9 (7) state the actions and responsibilities that are
10 necessary for the child's parents to take to achieve the plan goal
11 during the period of the service plan and the assistance to be
12 provided to the parents by the department or other agency toward
13 meeting that goal;

14 (8) state any specific skills or knowledge that the
15 child's parents must acquire or learn, as well as any behavioral
16 changes the parents must exhibit, to achieve the plan goal;

17 (9) state the actions and responsibilities that are
18 necessary for the child's parents to take to ensure that the child
19 attends school and maintains or improves the child's academic
20 compliance;

21 (10) state the name of the person with the department
22 whom the child's parents may contact for information relating to
23 the child if other than the person preparing the plan; and

24 (11) prescribe any other term or condition that the
25 department determines to be necessary to the service plan's
26 success.

27 (a-1) Any actions, responsibilities, skills, or knowledge

1 under Subsection (a)(7) or (8) must directly relate to the reason
2 the child was removed from the child's home.

3 (f) The department shall consult with relevant
4 professionals to determine the skills or knowledge that the parents
5 of a child under two years of age should learn or acquire to provide
6 a safe placement for the child. The skills or knowledge must
7 directly relate to the reason the child was removed from the child's
8 home. The department shall incorporate those skills and abilities
9 into the department's service plans, as appropriate.

10 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.