

Virginia Laws Relating to Child Abuse and Neglect

(Revised September 2022 by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services)

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NOTE: The following document includes excerpts from the Code of Virginia. The statutes that are included are intended to provide guidance and information to CASA program staff and volunteers working with abused and neglected children. The sections were included in their entirety to preserve the integrity of the language of the Code, therefore, some portions may not apply specifically to abused and neglected children assigned to CASA volunteers.

I. Definitions of abuse, neglect and dependency and/or pertinent topics and/or concepts

[§ 63.2-100. Definitions. General Provisions](#)

[§ 16.1-228. Definitions. Juvenile and Domestic Relations](#)

[§ 22.1-213.1. Definition of “parent.”](#)

[§ 63.2-1900. Definitions. Child Support Enforcement.](#)

[§ 63.2-1719. Barrier crime; construction.](#)

[§ 18.2-67.10. General definitions. Crimes Against the Person](#)

II. Requirements for Reporting Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect.

[§ 63.2-1508. Valid report or complaint.](#)

[§ 63.2-1509. Requirement that certain injuries to children be reported by physicians, nurses, teachers, etc.; penalty for failure to report.](#)

[§ 63.2-1530. Virginia Child Protection Accountability System..](#)

[22VAC40-705-40. Complaints and Reports of Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect.](#)

III. Responsibility of the local Department of Social Services to offer protective services and to screen and investigate reported incidents of child abuse and neglect.

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[§ 63.2-1506. Family assessments by local departments.](#)

[§ 63.2-214.2. Information related to shaken baby syndrome.](#)

[§ 63.2-1514. Retention of records in all reports; procedures regarding unfounded reports alleged to be made in bad faith or with malicious intent.](#)

[§ 63.2-1709.3. Child-placing agencies; conscience clause.](#)

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V. Circumstances under which children may be removed from their homes.

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[§ 9.1-152. Local court-appointed special advocate programs; powers and duties.](#)

[§ 9.1-153. Volunteer court-appointed special advocates; powers and duties; assignment; qualifications; training.](#)

[6VAC20-160-60. CASA Volunteer Duties and Responsibilities.](#)

[§ 9.1-154. Immunity.](#)

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[§ 9.1-156. Inspection and copying of records by advocate; confidentiality of records.](#)

[§ 9.1-157. Cooperation of state and local entities.](#)

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VII. Required court hearings and guidelines for judges.

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[§ 16.1-253. Preliminary protective order.](#)

[§ 16.1-253.1. Preliminary protective orders in cases of family abuse; confidentiality.](#)

[§ 16.1-277.01. Approval of entrustment agreement.](#)

[§ 16.1-277.02. Petition for relief of care and custody.](#)

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VIII. Foster Care

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[§16.1-281. Foster care plan.](#)

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[§ 63.2-908. Permanent foster care placement.](#)

[§ 63.2-1229. Foster parent adoption.](#)

[§ 63.2-911. Liability insurance for foster parents.](#)

[§ 63.2-1231. Home study; meeting required; exception.](#)

XIII. Relevant State Statutes by Category

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[§ 63.2-605. Eligibility for TANF; parolees and probationers who fail drug tests.](#)

[§ 63.2-606. Eligibility for TANF; school attendance.](#)

[§ 63.2-608. Virginia Initiative for Employment Not Welfare \(VIEW\).](#)

[§ 63.2-609. VIEW exemptions.](#)

[§ 63.2-612. Time limit on the receipt of TANF.](#)

[§ 63.2-617. Diversionary cash assistance.](#)

2. *Guardian ad litem Appointments*

[§ 16.1-266. Appointment of counsel and guardian ad litem.](#)

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[§ 63.2-1232. Requirements of a parental placement adoption; exception.](#)

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[§ 63.2-1242.2. Close relative adoption; child in home less than three years.](#)

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[§ 63.2-1250. Registration; notice; form.](#)

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5. Visitation

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7. School Records

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[§ 22.1-289. Transfer and management of scholastic records; disclosure of information in court notices; penalty.](#)

8. Venue, Violations, and Penalties of Protective Orders

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13. Office of the Children's Ombudsman

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