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HOUSE BILL NO. 1854**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**(Proposed by the House Committee for Courts of Justice
on January 24, 2025)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Arnold)

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 16.1-241, 16.1-278.15, and 20-124.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to person with a legitimate interest; parent whose rights have previously been terminated; custody and visitation.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That §§ 16.1-241, 16.1-278.15, and 20-124.1 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 16.1-241. Jurisdiction; consent for abortion.**

The judges of the juvenile and domestic relations district court elected or appointed under this law shall be conservators of the peace within the corporate limits of the cities and the boundaries of the counties for which they are respectively chosen and within one mile beyond the limits of such cities and counties. Except as hereinafter provided, each juvenile and domestic relations district court shall have, within the limits of the territory for which it is created, exclusive original jurisdiction, and within one mile beyond the limits of said city or county, concurrent jurisdiction with the juvenile court or courts of the adjoining city or county, over all cases, matters and proceedings involving:

A. The custody, visitation, support, control or disposition of a child:

1. Who is alleged to be abused, neglected, in need of services, in need of supervision, a status offender, or delinquent except where the jurisdiction of the juvenile court has been terminated or divested;

2. Who is abandoned by his parent or other custodian or who by reason of the absence or physical or mental incapacity of his parents is without parental care and guardianship;

2a. Who is at risk of being abused or neglected by a parent or custodian who has been adjudicated as having abused or neglected another child in the care of the parent or custodian;

3. Whose custody, visitation or support is a subject of controversy or requires determination. In such cases jurisdiction shall be concurrent with and not exclusive of courts having equity jurisdiction, except as provided in § 16.1-244;

4. Who is the subject of an entrustment agreement entered into pursuant to § 63.2-903 or 63.2-1817 or whose parent or parents for good cause desire to be relieved of his care and custody;

5. Where the termination of residual parental rights and responsibilities is sought. In such cases jurisdiction shall be concurrent with and not exclusive of courts having equity jurisdiction, as provided in § 16.1-244;

6. Who is charged with a traffic infraction as defined in § 46.2-100; or

7. Who is alleged to have refused to take a blood test in violation of § 18.2-268.2.

In any case in which the juvenile is alleged to have committed a violent juvenile felony enumerated in subsection B of § 16.1-269.1, and for any charges ancillary thereto, the jurisdiction of the juvenile court shall be limited to conducting a preliminary hearing to determine if there is probable cause to believe that the juvenile committed the act alleged and that the juvenile was 16 years of age or older at the time of the commission of the alleged offense, and any matters related thereto. In any case in which the juvenile is alleged to have committed a violent juvenile felony enumerated in subsection C of § 16.1-269.1, and for all charges ancillary thereto, if the attorney for the Commonwealth has given notice as provided in subsection C of § 16.1-269.1, the jurisdiction of the juvenile court shall be limited to conducting a preliminary hearing to determine if there is probable cause to believe that the juvenile committed the act alleged and that the juvenile was 16 years of age or older at the time of the commission of the alleged offense, and any matters related thereto. A determination by the juvenile court following a preliminary hearing pursuant to subsection B or C of § 16.1-269.1 to certify a charge to the grand jury shall divest the juvenile court of jurisdiction over the charge and any ancillary charge. In any case in which a transfer hearing is held pursuant to subsection A of § 16.1-269.1, if the juvenile court determines to transfer the case, jurisdiction of the juvenile court over the case shall be divested as provided in § 16.1-269.6.

In all other cases involving delinquent acts, and in cases in which an ancillary charge remains after a violent juvenile felony charge has been dismissed or a violent juvenile felony has been reduced to a lesser offense not constituting a violent juvenile felony, the jurisdiction of the juvenile court shall not be divested unless there is a transfer pursuant to subsection A of § 16.1-269.1.

The authority of the juvenile court to adjudicate matters involving the custody, visitation, support, control or disposition of a child shall not be limited to the consideration of petitions filed by a mother, father or legal guardian but shall include petitions filed at any time by any party with a legitimate interest therein. A party with a legitimate interest shall be broadly construed and shall include, but not be limited to, grandparents,

60 step-grandparents, stepparents, former stepparents, blood relatives and family members. A party with a
61 legitimate interest shall not include any person (i) whose parental rights have been terminated by court order,
62 either voluntarily or involuntarily, *except for purposes of this title, as otherwise provided by this paragraph*;
63 (ii) whose interest in the child derives from or through a person whose parental rights have been terminated
64 by court order, either voluntarily or involuntarily, including, but not limited to, grandparents, stepparents,
65 former stepparents, blood relatives and family members, if the child subsequently has been legally adopted,
66 except where a final order of adoption is entered pursuant to § 63.2-1241; or (iii) who has been convicted of
67 a violation of subsection A of § 18.2-61, § 18.2-63, subsection B of § 18.2-366, or an equivalent offense of
68 another state, the United States, or any foreign jurisdiction, when the child who is the subject of the petition
69 was conceived as a result of such violation. The authority of the juvenile court to consider a petition
70 involving the custody of a child shall not be proscribed or limited where the child has previously been
71 awarded to the custody of a local board of social services. *For purposes of this title, a party with a legitimate*
72 *interest shall also include a parent whose rights previously had been terminated, provided that the child*
73 *whose custody or visitation is at issue (a) is at least 14 years of age; (b) has had a permanency goal*
74 *previously achieved by adoption; (c) has had his adoptive parents die or, pursuant to § 16.1-277.02, each of*
75 *such child's adoptive parents has permanently been relieved of custody of such child and each adoptive*
76 *parent has had his parental rights terminated; and (d) is in the custody of a local board of social services,*
77 *and provided that the parent whose rights had previously been terminated has (1) complied with the terms of*
78 *any written post-adoption contact and communication agreement entered into pursuant to Article 1.1 (§*
79 *63.2-1220.2 et seq.) of Chapter 12 of Title 63.2 and (2) maintained a positive, continuous relationship with*
80 *the child since termination.*

81 A1. Making specific findings of fact required by state or federal law to enable a child to apply for or
82 receive a state or federal benefit. For the purposes of this subsection only, when the court has obtained
83 jurisdiction over the case of any child, the court may continue to exercise its jurisdiction until such person
84 reaches 21 years of age, for the purpose of entering findings of fact or amending past orders, to include
85 findings of fact necessary for the person to petition the federal government for status as a special immigrant
86 juvenile, as defined by 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(27)(J).

87 B. The admission of minors for inpatient treatment in a mental health facility in accordance with the
88 provisions of Article 16 (§ 16.1-335 et seq.) and the involuntary admission of a person with mental illness or
89 judicial certification of eligibility for admission to a training center for persons with intellectual disability in
90 accordance with the provisions of Chapter 8 (§ 37.2-800 et seq.) of Title 37.2. Jurisdiction of the involuntary
91 admission and certification of adults shall be concurrent with the general district court.

92 C. Except as provided in subsections D and H, judicial consent to such activities as may require parental
93 consent may be given for a child who has been separated from his parents, guardian, legal custodian or other
94 person standing in loco parentis and is in the custody of the court when such consent is required by law.

95 D. Judicial consent for emergency surgical or medical treatment for a child who is neither married nor has
96 ever been married, when the consent of his parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person standing in loco
97 parentis is unobtainable because such parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person standing in loco
98 parentis (i) is not a resident of the Commonwealth, (ii) has his whereabouts unknown, (iii) cannot be
99 consulted with promptness, reasonable under the circumstances, or (iv) fails to give such consent or provide
100 such treatment when requested by the judge to do so.

101 E. Any person charged with deserting, abandoning or failing to provide support for any person in violation
102 of law.

103 F. Any parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person standing in loco parentis of a child:

104 1. Who has been abused or neglected;

105 2. Who is the subject of an entrustment agreement entered into pursuant to § 63.2-903 or 63.2-1817 or is
106 otherwise before the court pursuant to subdivision A 4; or

107 3. Who has been adjudicated in need of services, in need of supervision, or delinquent, if the court finds
108 that such person has by overt act or omission induced, caused, encouraged or contributed to the conduct of
109 the child complained of in the petition.

110 G. Petitions filed by or on behalf of a child or such child's parent, guardian, legal custodian or other
111 person standing in loco parentis for the purpose of obtaining treatment, rehabilitation or other services that
112 are required by law to be provided for that child or such child's parent, guardian, legal custodian or other
113 person standing in loco parentis. Jurisdiction in such cases shall be concurrent with and not exclusive of that
114 of courts having equity jurisdiction as provided in § 16.1-244.

115 H. Judicial consent to apply for a work permit for a child when such child is separated from his parents,
116 legal guardian or other person standing in loco parentis.

117 I. The prosecution and punishment of persons charged with ill-treatment, abuse, abandonment or neglect
118 of children or with any violation of law that causes or tends to cause a child to come within the purview of
119 this law, or with any other offense against the person of a child. In prosecution for felonies over which the
120 court has jurisdiction, jurisdiction shall be limited to determining whether or not there is probable cause.

121 J. All offenses in which one family or household member is charged with an offense in which another

122 family or household member is the victim and all offenses under § 18.2-49.1.

123 In prosecution for felonies over which the court has jurisdiction, jurisdiction shall be limited to
124 determining whether or not there is probable cause. Any objection based on jurisdiction under this subsection
125 shall be made before a jury is impaneled and sworn in a jury trial or, in a nonjury trial, before the earlier of
126 when the court begins to hear or receive evidence or the first witness is sworn, or it shall be conclusively
127 waived for all purposes. Any such objection shall not affect or be grounds for challenging directly or
128 collaterally the jurisdiction of the court in which the case is tried.

129 K. Petitions filed by a natural parent, whose parental rights to a child have been voluntarily relinquished
130 pursuant to a court proceeding, to seek a reversal of the court order terminating such parental rights. No such
131 petition shall be accepted, however, after the child has been placed in the home of adoptive parents.

132 L. Any person who seeks spousal support after having separated from his spouse. A decision under this
133 subdivision shall not be res judicata in any subsequent action for spousal support in a circuit court. A circuit
134 court shall have concurrent original jurisdiction in all causes of action under this subdivision.

135 M. Petitions filed for the purpose of obtaining an order of protection pursuant to § 16.1-253.1, 16.1-253.4,
136 or 16.1-279.1, and all petitions filed for the purpose of obtaining an order of protection pursuant to §
137 19.2-152.8, 19.2-152.9, or 19.2-152.10 if either the alleged victim or the respondent is a juvenile.

138 N. Any person who escapes or remains away without proper authority from a residential care facility in
139 which he had been placed by the court or as a result of his commitment to the Virginia Department of
140 Juvenile Justice.

141 O. Petitions for emancipation of a minor pursuant to Article 15 (§ 16.1-331 et seq.).

142 P. Petitions for enforcement of administrative support orders entered pursuant to Chapter 19 (§ 63.2-1900
143 et seq.) of Title 63.2, or by another state in the same manner as if the orders were entered by a juvenile and
144 domestic relations district court upon the filing of a certified copy of such order in the juvenile and domestic
145 relations district court.

146 Q. Petitions for a determination of parentage pursuant to Chapter 3.1 (§ 20-49.1 et seq.) of Title 20. A
147 circuit court shall have concurrent original jurisdiction to the extent provided for in § 20-49.2.

148 R. [Repealed.]

149 S. Petitions filed by school boards against parents pursuant to §§ 16.1-241.2 and 22.1-279.3.

150 T. Petitions to enforce any request for information or subpoena that is not complied with or to review any
151 refusal to issue a subpoena in an administrative appeal regarding child abuse and neglect pursuant to §
152 63.2-1526.

153 U. Petitions filed in connection with parental placement adoption consent hearings pursuant to §
154 63.2-1233. Such proceedings shall be advanced on the docket so as to be heard by the court within 10 days of
155 filing of the petition, or as soon thereafter as practicable so as to provide the earliest possible disposition.

156 V. Petitions filed for the purpose of obtaining the court's assistance with the execution of consent to an
157 adoption when the consent to an adoption is executed pursuant to the laws of another state and the laws of
158 that state provide for the execution of consent to an adoption in the court of the Commonwealth.

159 W. Petitions filed by a juvenile seeking judicial authorization for a physician to perform an abortion if a
160 minor elects not to seek consent of an authorized person.

161 After a hearing, a judge shall issue an order authorizing a physician to perform an abortion, without the
162 consent of any authorized person, if he finds that (i) the minor is mature enough and well enough informed to
163 make her abortion decision, in consultation with her physician, independent of the wishes of any authorized
164 person, or (ii) the minor is not mature enough or well enough informed to make such decision, but the desired
165 abortion would be in her best interest.

166 If the judge authorizes an abortion based on the best interests of the minor, such order shall expressly state
167 that such authorization is subject to the physician or his agent giving notice of intent to perform the abortion;
168 however, no such notice shall be required if the judge finds that such notice would not be in the best interest
169 of the minor. In determining whether notice is in the best interest of the minor, the judge shall consider the
170 totality of the circumstances; however, he shall find that notice is not in the best interest of the minor if he
171 finds that (a) one or more authorized persons with whom the minor regularly and customarily resides is
172 abusive or neglectful and (b) every other authorized person, if any, is either abusive or neglectful or has
173 refused to accept responsibility as parent, legal guardian, custodian or person standing in loco parentis.

174 The minor may participate in the court proceedings on her own behalf, and the court may appoint a
175 guardian ad litem for the minor. The court shall advise the minor that she has a right to counsel and shall,
176 upon her request, appoint counsel for her.

177 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the provisions of this subsection shall govern proceedings
178 relating to consent for a minor's abortion. Court proceedings under this subsection and records of such
179 proceedings shall be confidential. Such proceedings shall be given precedence over other pending matters so
180 that the court may reach a decision promptly and without delay in order to serve the best interests of the
181 minor. Court proceedings under this subsection shall be heard and decided as soon as practicable but in no
182 event later than four days after the petition is filed.

183 An expedited confidential appeal to the circuit court shall be available to any minor for whom the court

184 denies an order authorizing an abortion without consent or without notice. Any such appeal shall be heard
185 and decided no later than five days after the appeal is filed. The time periods required by this subsection shall
186 be subject to subsection B of § 1-210. An order authorizing an abortion without consent or without notice
187 shall not be subject to appeal.

188 No filing fees shall be required of the minor at trial or upon appeal.

189 If either the original court or the circuit court fails to act within the time periods required by this
190 subsection, the court before which the proceeding is pending shall immediately authorize a physician to
191 perform the abortion without consent of or notice to an authorized person.

192 Nothing contained in this subsection shall be construed to authorize a physician to perform an abortion on
193 a minor in circumstances or in a manner that would be unlawful if performed on an adult woman.

194 A physician shall not knowingly perform an abortion upon an unemancipated minor unless consent has
195 been obtained or the minor delivers to the physician a court order entered pursuant to this section and the
196 physician or his agent provides such notice as such order may require. However, neither consent nor judicial
197 authorization nor notice shall be required if the minor declares that she is abused or neglected and the
198 attending physician has reason to suspect that the minor may be an abused or neglected child as defined in §
199 63.2-100 and reports the suspected abuse or neglect in accordance with § 63.2-1509; or if there is a medical
200 emergency, in which case the attending physician shall certify the facts justifying the exception in the minor's
201 medical record.

202 For purposes of this subsection:

203 "Authorization" means the minor has delivered to the physician a notarized, written statement signed by
204 an authorized person that the authorized person knows of the minor's intent to have an abortion and consents
205 to such abortion being performed on the minor.

206 "Authorized person" means (i) a parent or duly appointed legal guardian or custodian of the minor or (ii) a
207 person standing in loco parentis, including, but not limited to, a grandparent or adult sibling with whom the
208 minor regularly and customarily resides and who has care and control of the minor. Any person who knows
209 he is not an authorized person and who knowingly and willfully signs an authorization statement consenting
210 to an abortion for a minor is guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor.

211 "Consent" means that (i) the physician has given notice of intent to perform the abortion and has received
212 authorization from an authorized person, or (ii) at least one authorized person is present with the minor
213 seeking the abortion and provides written authorization to the physician, which shall be witnessed by the
214 physician or an agent thereof. In either case, the written authorization shall be incorporated into the minor's
215 medical record and maintained as a part thereof.

216 "Medical emergency" means any condition which, on the basis of the physician's good faith clinical
217 judgment, so complicates the medical condition of the pregnant minor as to necessitate the immediate
218 abortion of her pregnancy to avert her death or for which a delay will create a serious risk of substantial and
219 irreversible impairment of a major bodily function.

220 "Notice of intent to perform the abortion" means that (i) the physician or his agent has given actual notice
221 of his intention to perform such abortion to an authorized person, either in person or by telephone, at least 24
222 hours previous to the performance of the abortion or (ii) the physician or his agent, after a reasonable effort to
223 notify an authorized person, has mailed notice to an authorized person by certified mail, addressed to such
224 person at his usual place of abode, with return receipt requested, at least 72 hours prior to the performance of
225 the abortion.

226 "Perform an abortion" means to interrupt or terminate a pregnancy by any surgical or nonsurgical
227 procedure or to induce a miscarriage as provided in § 18.2-72, 18.2-73, or 18.2-74.

228 "Unemancipated minor" means a minor who has not been emancipated by (i) entry into a valid marriage
229 entered into prior to July 1, 2024, or lawfully entered into in another state or country prior to being domiciled
230 in the Commonwealth, even though the marriage may have been terminated by dissolution; (ii) active duty
231 with any of the Armed Forces of the United States; (iii) willingly living separate and apart from his or her
232 parents or guardian, with the consent or acquiescence of the parents or guardian; or (iv) entry of an order of
233 emancipation pursuant to Article 15 (§ 16.1-331 et seq.).

234 X. Petitions filed pursuant to Article 17 (§ 16.1-349 et seq.) relating to standby guardians for minor
235 children.

236 Y. Petitions involving minors filed pursuant to § 32.1-45.1 relating to obtaining a blood specimen or test
237 results.

238 Z. Petitions filed pursuant to § 16.1-283.3 for review of voluntary agreements for continuation of services
239 and support for persons who meet the eligibility criteria for the Fostering Futures program set forth in §
240 63.2-919.

241 The ages specified in this law refer to the age of the child at the time of the acts complained of in the
242 petition.

243 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no fees shall be charged by a sheriff for the service of any
244 process in a proceeding pursuant to subdivision A 3, except as provided in subdivision A 6 of § 17.1-272, or

245 subsection B, D, M, or R.

246 Notwithstanding the provisions of § 18.2-71, any physician who performs an abortion in violation of
 247 subsection W shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor.

248 Upon certification by the juvenile and domestic relations district court of any felony charge and ancillary
 249 misdemeanor charge committed by an adult or when an appeal of a conviction or adjudication of delinquency
 250 of an offense in the juvenile and domestic relations district court is noted, jurisdiction as to such charges shall
 251 vest in the circuit court, unless such case is reopened pursuant to § 16.1-133.1; a final judgment, order, or
 252 decree is modified, vacated, or suspended pursuant to Supreme Court of Virginia Rule 1:1; or the appeal has
 253 been withdrawn in the juvenile and domestic relations district court within 10 days pursuant to § 16.1-133.

254 **§ 16.1-278.15. Custody or visitation, child or spousal support generally.**

255 A. In cases involving the custody, visitation or support of a child pursuant to subdivision A 3 of §
 256 16.1-241, the court may make any order of disposition to protect the welfare of the child and family as may
 257 be made by the circuit court. The parties to any petition where a child whose custody, visitation, or support is
 258 contested shall show proof that they have attended within the 12 months prior to their court appearance or
 259 that they shall attend within 45 days thereafter an educational seminar or other like program conducted by a
 260 qualified person or organization approved by the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of
 261 Virginia. The court may require the parties to attend such seminar or program in uncontested cases only if the
 262 court finds good cause. The seminar or other program shall be a minimum of four hours in length and shall
 263 address the effects of separation or divorce on children, parenting responsibilities, options for conflict
 264 resolution and financial responsibilities. Once a party has completed one educational seminar or other like
 265 program, the required completion of additional programs shall be at the court's discretion. Parties under this
 266 section shall include natural or adoptive parents of the child, or any person with a legitimate interest as
 267 defined in § 20-124.1. The fee charged a party for participation in such program shall be based on the party's
 268 ability to pay; however, no fee in excess of \$50 may be charged. Whenever possible, before participating in
 269 mediation or alternative dispute resolution to address custody, visitation or support, each party shall have
 270 attended the educational seminar or other like program. The court may grant an exemption from attendance of
 271 such program for good cause shown or if there is no program reasonably available. Other than statements or
 272 admissions by a party admitting criminal activity or child abuse or neglect, no statement or admission by a
 273 party in such seminar or program shall be admissible into evidence in any subsequent proceeding. If support
 274 is ordered for a child, the order shall also provide that support will continue to be paid for a child over the age
 275 of 18 who is (i) a full-time high school student, (ii) not self-supporting, and (iii) living in the home of the
 276 parent seeking or receiving child support, until the child reaches the age of 19 or graduates from high school,
 277 whichever occurs first. The court may also order that support be paid or continue to be paid for any child over
 278 the age of 18 who is (a) severely and permanently mentally or physically disabled, and such disability existed
 279 prior to the child reaching the age of 18 or the age of 19 if the child met the requirements of clauses (i), (ii),
 280 and (iii); (b) unable to live independently and support himself; and (c) residing in the home of the parent
 281 seeking or receiving child support. Upon request of either party, the court may also order that support
 282 payments be made to a special needs trust or an ABLE savings trust account as defined in § 23.1-700.

283 B. In any case involving the custody or visitation of a child, the court may award custody upon petition to
 284 any party with a legitimate interest therein, including, but not limited to, grandparents, stepparents, former
 285 stepparents, blood relatives and family members. *For purposes of this section, a party with a legitimate*
 286 *interest shall also include a parent whose rights previously had been terminated, provided that the child*
 287 *whose custody or visitation is at issue (i) is at least 14 years of age; (ii) has had a permanency goal*
 288 *previously achieved by adoption; (iii) has had his adoptive parents die or, pursuant to § 16.1-277.02, each of*
 289 *such child's adoptive parents has permanently been relieved of custody of such child and each adoptive*
 290 *parent has had his parental rights terminated; and (iv) is in the custody of a local board of social services,*
 291 *and provided that the parent whose rights had previously been terminated has (a) complied with the terms of*
 292 *any written post-adoption contact and communication agreement entered into pursuant to Article 1.1 (§*
 293 *63.2-1220.2 et seq.) of Chapter 12 of Title 63.2 and (b) maintained a positive, continuous relationship with*
 294 *the child since termination.* The term "legitimate interest" shall be broadly construed to accommodate the best
 295 interest of the child. The authority of the juvenile court to consider a petition involving the custody of a child
 296 shall not be proscribed or limited where the custody of the child has previously been awarded to a local board
 297 of social services.

298 C. In any determination of support obligation under this section, the support obligation as it becomes due
 299 and unpaid creates a judgment by operation of law. Such judgment becomes a lien against real estate only
 300 when docketed in the county or city where such real estate is located. Nothing herein shall be construed to
 301 alter or amend the process of attachment of any lien on personal property.

302 D. Orders entered prior to July 1, 2008, shall not be deemed void or voidable solely because the petition
 303 or motion that resulted in the order was completed, signed and filed by a nonattorney employee of the
 304 Department of Social Services.

305 E. In cases involving charges for desertion, abandonment or failure to provide support by any person in

306 violation of law, disposition shall be made in accordance with Chapter 5 (§ 20-61 et seq.) of Title 20.

307 F. In cases involving a spouse who seeks spousal support after having separated from his spouse, the court
308 may enter any appropriate order to protect the welfare of the spouse seeking support.

309 G. In any case or proceeding involving the custody or visitation of a child, the court shall consider the best
310 interest of the child, including the considerations for determining custody and visitation set forth in Chapter
311 6.1 (§ 20-124.1 et seq.) of Title 20.

312 G1. In any case or proceeding involving the custody or visitation of a child, as to a parent, the court may,
313 in its discretion, use the phrase "parenting time" to be synonymous with the term "visitation."

314 H. In any proceeding before the court for custody or visitation of a child, the court may order a custody or
315 a psychological evaluation of any parent, guardian, legal custodian or person standing in loco parentis to the
316 child, if the court finds such evaluation would assist it in its determination. The court may enter such orders
317 as it deems appropriate for the payment of the costs of the evaluation by the parties.

318 I. When deemed appropriate by the court in any custody or visitation matter, the court may order drug
319 testing of any parent, guardian, legal custodian or person standing in loco parentis to the child. The court may
320 enter such orders as it deems appropriate for the payment of the costs of the testing by the parties.

321 J. In any custody or visitation case or proceeding wherein an order prohibiting a party from picking the
322 child up from school is entered pursuant to this section, the court shall order a party to such case or
323 proceeding to provide a copy of such custody or visitation order to the school at which the child is enrolled
324 within three business days of such party's receipt of such custody or visitation order.

325 If a custody determination affects the school enrollment of the child subject to such custody order and
326 prohibits a party from picking the child up from school, the court shall order a party to provide a copy of such
327 custody order to the school at which the child will be enrolled within three business days of such party's
328 receipt of such order. Such order directing a party to provide a copy of such custody or visitation order shall
329 further require such party, upon any subsequent change in the child's school enrollment, to provide a copy of
330 such custody or visitation order to the new school at which the child is subsequently enrolled within three
331 business days of such enrollment.

332 If the court determines that a party is unable to deliver the custody or visitation order to the school, such
333 party shall provide the court with the name of the principal and address of the school, and the court shall
334 cause the order to be mailed by first class mail to such school principal.

335 Nothing in this section shall be construed to require any school staff to interpret or enforce the terms of
336 such custody or visitation order.

337 **§ 20-124.1. Definitions.**

338 As used in this chapter:

339 "Joint custody" means (i) joint legal custody where both parents retain joint responsibility for the care and
340 control of the child and joint authority to make decisions concerning the child even though the child's primary
341 residence may be with only one parent, (ii) joint physical custody where both parents share physical and
342 custodial care of the child, or (iii) any combination of joint legal and joint physical custody which the court
343 deems to be in the best interest of the child.

344 "Person with a legitimate interest" shall be broadly construed and includes, but is not limited to,
345 grandparents, step-grandparents, stepparents, former stepparents, blood relatives and family members
346 provided any such party has intervened in the suit or is otherwise properly before the court. The term shall be
347 broadly construed to accommodate the best interest of the child. A party with a legitimate interest shall not
348 include any person (i) whose parental rights have been terminated by court order, either voluntarily or
349 involuntarily, *except for purposes of this title, as otherwise provided by this definition*; (ii) whose interest in
350 the child derives from or through a person whose parental rights have been terminated, either voluntarily or
351 involuntarily, including but not limited to grandparents, stepparents, former stepparents, blood relatives and
352 family members, if the child subsequently has been legally adopted, except where a final order of adoption is
353 entered pursuant to § 63.2-1241; or (iii) who has been convicted of a violation of subsection A of § 18.2-61,
354 § 18.2-63, subsection B of § 18.2-366, or an equivalent offense of another state, the United States, or any
355 foreign jurisdiction, when the child who is the subject of the petition was conceived as a result of such
356 violation. *For purposes of this title, a "person with a legitimate interest" shall also include a parent whose
357 rights previously had been terminated, provided that the child whose custody or visitation is at issue (a) is at
358 least 14 years of age; (b) has had a permanency goal previously achieved by adoption; (c) has had his
359 adoptive parents die or, pursuant to § 16.1-277.02, each of such child's adoptive parents has permanently
360 been relieved of custody of such child and each adoptive parent has had his parental rights terminated; and
361 (d) is in the custody of a local board of social services, and provided that the parent whose rights had
362 previously been terminated has (1) complied with the terms of any written post-adoption contact and
363 communication agreement entered into pursuant to Article 1.1 (§ 63.2-1220.2 et seq.) of Chapter 12 of Title
364 63.2 and (2) maintained a positive, continuous relationship with the child since termination.*

365 "Sole custody" means that one person retains responsibility for the care and control of a child and has
366 primary authority to make decisions concerning the child.