

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 23-0010.01 Alana Rosen x2606

**HOUSE BILL 23-1178**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Froelich,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Winter F.,**

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**House Committees**

Judiciary  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING ENHANCING COURT PERSONNEL'S RECOGNITION OF**  
102            **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TO ACCESS FEDERAL FUNDING, AND, IN**  
103            **CONNECTION THEREWITH, INCLUDING THE RECOGNITION OF**  
104            **CHILD ABUSE.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

To comply with the federal "Keeping Children Safe From Family Violence Act" (federal act), the bill requires courts that hear proceedings concerning the allocation of parental responsibilities involving domestic

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.*  
*Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

violence or child abuse, including child sexual abuse, to admit expert testimony and evidence only if the expert demonstrates expertise and experience working with victims of domestic violence or child abuse, including child sexual abuse. The court is also required to consider evidence of past sexual or physical abuse committed by the accused party.

A court shall not remove or restrict contact between a child from a protective party who is competent, protective, not physically or sexually abusive, and with whom the child is bonded or attached solely in order to improve a deficient relationship with the accused party.

The bill provides that a court shall not order reunification treatment (treatment) that is predicated on cutting off the relationship between a child and a protective party with whom the child is bonded and attached. If a court orders treatment, the treatment must be generally accepted and there must be scientifically valid proof of the safety, effectiveness, and therapeutic value of the treatment.

The bill directs the task force created in House Bill 23-1108 to study victim and survivor awareness and responsiveness training requirements to study the training requirements required by the federal act for any judge or magistrate who presides over parental responsibility proceedings.

The bill requires court personnel, including guardians ad litem, representatives of a child, counsel for youth, special masters, mediators, child and family investigators, and parental responsibilities evaluators, to complete no less than 20 hours of initial training and no less than 15 hours of ongoing training every 5 years. The training must focus on domestic violence and child abuse.

A professional trainer is required to conduct the training. The professional trainer shall have substantial experience in assisting survivors of domestic violence or child abuse.

The bill requires the judicial branch to apply to the federal department of justice's office of the attorney general for a grant increase in compliance with the federal act.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 14-10-127.5 as  
3 follows:

4           **14-10-127.5. Domestic violence training for court personnel -**  
5 **expert testimony - child placement decisions - legislative declaration**  
6 **- definitions.** (1) (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES  
7 THAT:

1 (I) APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN MILLION CHILDREN ARE EXPOSED  
2 EACH YEAR TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR CHILD ABUSE;

3 (II) MOST CHILD ABUSE IS PERPETRATED IN THE FAMILY AND BY A  
4 PARENT;

5 (III) A CHILD'S RISK OF ABUSE INCREASES AFTER A PERPETRATOR  
6 OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE SEPARATES FROM THE PERPETRATOR'S  
7 DOMESTIC PARTNER, EVEN WHEN THE PERPETRATOR HAD NOT DIRECTLY  
8 ABUSED THE CHILD PREVIOUSLY;

9 (IV) EMPIRICAL RESEARCH INDICATES THAT ALLEGATIONS OF  
10 CHILD PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL ABUSE ARE REGULARLY DISCOUNTED BY  
11 COURTS WHEN RAISED IN PARENTAL ALLOCATION CASES. COURTS BELIEVE  
12 FEWER THAN ONE-FOURTH OF CLAIMS THAT A PARENT HAS COMMITTED  
13 CHILD PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL ABUSE.

14 (V) IN PARENTAL ALLOCATION CASES IN WHICH AN ALLEGED OR  
15 KNOWN ABUSIVE PARENT CLAIMS ALIENATION FROM THE CHILD, COURTS  
16 ARE FOUR TIMES MORE LIKELY TO DISBELIEVE THE PARENT WHO CLAIMS  
17 CHILD PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL ABUSE;

18 (VI) RESEARCH SHOWS THAT COURTS GRANT CUSTODY OR  
19 UNPROTECTED PARENTING TIME TO AN ALLEGED OR KNOWN ABUSIVE  
20 PARENT;

21 (VII) SINCE 2008, NEARLY EIGHT HUNDRED CHILDREN HAVE BEEN  
22 MURDERED BY A DIVORCING OR SEPARATING PARENT, WITH MORE THAN  
23 ONE HUNDRED MURDERS OCCURRING AFTER A COURT ORDERED THE CHILD  
24 INTO CONTACT WITH THE ALLEGED OR KNOWN ABUSIVE PARENT DESPITE  
25 OBJECTIONS FROM THE PARENT WHO CLAIMED CHILD PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL  
26 ABUSE;

27 (VIII) ABUSIVE PARENTS FREQUENTLY CLAIM THAT ABUSE

1 ALLEGATIONS ARE FALSE TO MINIMIZE OR DENY REPORTS OF ABUSE.  
2 EXPERTS WHO TESTIFY AGAINST ABUSE ALLEGATIONS OFTEN LACK  
3 EXPERTISE IN THE RELEVANT TYPE OF ALLEGED ABUSE, RELYING ON  
4 UNPROVEN THEORIES.

5 (IX) JUDGES PRESIDING OVER PARENTAL ALLOCATION CASES WITH  
6 ALLEGATIONS OF CHILD ABUSE, CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE, AND DOMESTIC  
7 VIOLENCE ARE RARELY REQUIRED TO RECEIVE TRAINING ON THESE  
8 SUBJECTS.

9 (b) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THEREFORE DECLARES THAT:

10 (I) A CHILD'S SAFETY IS THE FIRST PRIORITY OF THE COURT IN A  
11 PROCEEDING AFFECTING THE CHILD'S CARE AND CUSTODY;

12 (II) STRENGTHENING THE ABILITY OF THE COURTS TO RECOGNIZE  
13 AND ADJUDICATE ADULT AND CHILD ABUSE ALLEGATIONS BASED ON VALID,  
14 ADMISSIBLE EVIDENCE WILL ALLOW COURTS TO ENTER ORDERS THAT  
15 PROTECT AND MINIMIZE RISK OF HARM TO THE CHILD; AND

16 (III) COURT PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN CASES CONTAINING ABUSE  
17 ALLEGATIONS WHO RECEIVE TRAUMA-INFORMED TRAINING ON THE  
18 DYNAMICS, SIGNS, AND IMPACTS OF CHILD ABUSE, CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE,  
19 AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE WILL HELP PROTECT AND MINIMIZE RISK  
20 OF HARM TO THE CHILD.

21 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
22 REQUIRES:

23 (a) "ACCUSED PARTY" MEANS A PARENT IN A CASE TO DETERMINE  
24 PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES WHO HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF DOMESTIC  
25 VIOLENCE OR CHILD ABUSE, INCLUDING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE.

26 (b) "PROTECTIVE PARTY" MEANS A PARENT IN A CASE TO  
27 DETERMINE PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES WHO IS COMPETENT, PROTECTIVE,

1 NOT SEXUALLY OR PHYSICALLY ABUSIVE, AND WITH WHOM A CHILD IS  
2 BONDED OR ATTACHED.

3 (c) "REUNIFICATION TREATMENT" MEANS A TREATMENT OR  
4 THERAPY AIMED AT REUNITING OR REESTABLISHING A RELATIONSHIP  
5 BETWEEN A CHILD AND AN ESTRANGED OR REJECTED PARENT OR OTHER  
6 FAMILY MEMBER OF THE CHILD.

7 (d) "TASK FORCE" MEANS THE TASK FORCE TO STUDY VICTIM AND  
8 SURVIVOR AWARENESS AND RESPONSIVENESS TRAINING REQUIREMENTS  
9 FOR JUDICIAL PERSONNEL CREATED IN SECTION 24-33.5-534, AS ENACTED  
10 IN HOUSE BILL 23-1108.

11 (e) "VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDER" MEANS A NONPROFIT,  
12 NONGOVERNMENTAL OR TRIBAL ORGANIZATION OR RAPE CRISIS CENTER,  
13 INCLUDING OF A STATE OR TRIBAL NATION, THAT IS SUBJECT TO SECTION  
14 13-90-107 (1)(k)(I) AND ASSISTS OR ADVOCATES FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,  
15 DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING VICTIMS, INCLUDING  
16 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS, FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS, AND OTHER  
17 ORGANIZATIONS WITH A DOCUMENTED HISTORY OF EFFECTIVE WORK  
18 CONCERNING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT,  
19 OR STALKING.

20 (3) (a) IN ALL PROCEEDINGS CONCERNING THE ALLOCATION OF  
21 PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES WITH RESPECT TO A CHILD IN WHICH A CLAIM  
22 OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR CHILD ABUSE, INCLUDING CHILD SEXUAL  
23 ABUSE, HAS BEEN MADE TO THE COURT, OR THE COURT HAS REASON TO  
24 BELIEVE THAT A PARTY HAS COMMITTED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR CHILD  
25 ABUSE, INCLUDING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE, THE COURT SHALL:

26 (I) CONSIDER THE ADMISSION OF EXPERT TESTIMONY AND  
27 EVIDENCE IF THE EXPERT DEMONSTRATES EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE

1 WORKING WITH VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR CHILD ABUSE,  
2 INCLUDING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE, THAT IS NOT SOLELY FORENSIC IN  
3 NATURE; AND

4 (II) CONSIDER EVIDENCE OF PAST SEXUAL OR PHYSICAL ABUSE  
5 COMMITTED BY THE ACCUSED PARTY, INCLUDING:

6 (A) ANY PAST OR CURRENT PROTECTION OR RESTRAINING ORDERS  
7 AGAINST THE ACCUSED PARTY, INCLUDING PROTECTION OR RESTRAINING  
8 ORDERS THAT RAISE SEXUAL VIOLENCE OR ABUSE;

9 (B) ARRESTS OF THE ACCUSED PARTY FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,  
10 SEXUAL VIOLENCE, OR CHILD ABUSE;

11 (C) CONVICTIONS OF THE ACCUSED PARTY FOR DOMESTIC  
12 VIOLENCE, SEXUAL VIOLENCE, OR CHILD ABUSE; OR

13 (D) OTHER DOCUMENTATION, INCLUDING LETTERS FROM A VICTIM  
14 ADVOCATE OR VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDER, IF THE VICTIM HAS CONSENTED  
15 PURSUANT TO SECTION 13-90-107 (1)(k)(I); MEDICAL RECORDS; OR A  
16 LETTER TO A LANDLORD TO BREAK A LEASE.

17 (b) IN DETERMINING ALLOCATION OF PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES  
18 IN PROCEEDINGS IN WHICH A CLAIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR CHILD  
19 ABUSE, INCLUDING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE, HAS BEEN MADE TO THE COURT,  
20 OR THE COURT HAS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT A PARTY HAS COMMITTED  
21 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR CHILD ABUSE, INCLUDING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE,  
22 A COURT SHALL NOT:

23 (I) REMOVE A CHILD FROM A PROTECTIVE PARTY SOLELY TO  
24 IMPROVE A DEFICIENT RELATIONSHIP WITH AN ACCUSED PARTY;

25 (II) RESTRICT CONTACT BETWEEN A CHILD AND A PROTECTIVE  
26 PARTY SOLELY TO IMPROVE A DEFICIENT RELATIONSHIP WITH AN ACCUSED  
27 PARTY;

1 (III) ORDER REUNIFICATION TREATMENT, UNLESS THERE IS  
2 GENERALLY ACCEPTED AND SCIENTIFICALLY VALID PROOF OF THE SAFETY,  
3 EFFECTIVENESS, AND THERAPEUTIC VALUE OF THE REUNIFICATION  
4 TREATMENT; OR

5 (IV) ORDER REUNIFICATION TREATMENT THAT IS PREDICATED ON  
6 CUTTING OFF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A CHILD AND PROTECTIVE  
7 PARTY.

8 (c) IF A COURT ISSUES AN ORDER TO REMEDIATE THE RESISTANCE  
9 OF A CHILD TO HAVE CONTACT WITH AN ACCUSED PARTY, THE ORDER MUST  
10 PRIMARILY ADDRESS THE BEHAVIOR OF THE ACCUSED PARTY, WHO SHALL  
11 ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACCUSED PARTY'S ACTIONS THAT  
12 NEGATIVELY AFFECTED THE ACCUSED PARTY'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE  
13 CHILD, AND AN APPROVED MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHALL VERIFY  
14 THE ACCUSED PARTY'S BEHAVIOR BEFORE THE COURT ORDERS A  
15 PROTECTIVE PARTY TO TAKE STEPS TO IMPROVE THE RELATIONSHIP WITH  
16 THE ACCUSED PARTY.

17 (d) IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE FEDERAL "KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE  
18 FROM FAMILY VIOLENCE ACT", 34 U.S.C. SEC. 10446, AS AMENDED, ANY  
19 NEUTRAL PROFESSIONAL APPOINTED BY A COURT TO EXPRESS AN OPINION  
20 RELATING TO ABUSE, TRAUMA, OR THE BEHAVIORS OF VICTIMS AND  
21 PERPETRATORS OF ABUSE AND TRAUMA DURING A PROCEEDING TO  
22 ALLOCATE PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES SHALL POSSESS DEMONSTRATED  
23 EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE IN WORKING WITH VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC  
24 VIOLENCE OR CHILD ABUSE, INCLUDING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE, THAT IS NOT  
25 SOLELY OF A FORENSIC NATURE.

26 (4) (a) THE TASK FORCE SHALL STUDY THE TRAINING  
27 REQUIREMENTS IN THE FEDERAL "KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE FROM FAMILY

1 VIOLENCE ACT", 34 U.S.C. SEC. 10446, AS AMENDED, AND MAKE  
2 RECOMMENDATIONS THAT COMPLY WITH THE FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR  
3 ANY JUDGE OR MAGISTRATE WHO PRESIDES OVER PARENTAL  
4 RESPONSIBILITY PROCEEDINGS. THE TASK FORCE SHALL FOCUS ON THE  
5 FOLLOWING:

6 (I) THE HOURLY TRAINING REQUIREMENTS DESCRIBED IN  
7 SUBSECTION (5)(a) OF THIS SECTION;

8 (II) THE RECOGNITION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILD ABUSE  
9 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (5)(b) OF THIS SECTION; AND

10 (III) THE REQUIREMENTS OF A PROFESSIONAL TRAINER TO LEAD  
11 THE TRAINING DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTIONS (6)(a) AND (6)(b) OF THIS  
12 SECTION.

13 (b) THE TRAINING MUST BE DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE COURTS'  
14 ABILITY TO RECOGNIZE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILD ABUSE IN  
15 PARENTAL ALLOCATION PROCEEDINGS AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (6)(c)  
16 OF THIS SECTION.

17 (5) (a) CHILD AND FAMILY INVESTIGATORS, AS DESCRIBED IN  
18 SECTION 14-10-116.5, AND PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES EVALUATORS, AS  
19 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 14-10-127, WHO ARE INVOLVED IN PARENTAL  
20 RESPONSIBILITY PROCEEDINGS, SHALL COMPLETE:

21 (I) NO LESS THAN TWENTY HOURS OF INITIAL TRAINING; AND

22 (II) NO LESS THAN FIFTEEN HOURS OF ONGOING TRAINING EVERY  
23 FIVE YEARS.

24 (b) THE REQUIRED TRAINING SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (5)(a) OF  
25 THIS SECTION MUST FOCUS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILD ABUSE,  
26 INCLUDING:

27 (I) CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE;

- 1 (II) PHYSICAL ABUSE;  
2 (III) EMOTIONAL ABUSE;  
3 (IV) COERCIVE CONTROL;  
4 (V) IMPLICIT AND EXPLICIT BIAS, INCLUDING BIASES RELATING TO  
5 PARTIES WITH DISABILITIES;  
6 (VI) TRAUMA;  
7 (VII) LONG-TERM AND SHORT-TERM IMPACTS OF DOMESTIC  
8 VIOLENCE AND CHILD ABUSE ON CHILDREN; AND  
9 (VIII) VICTIM AND PERPETRATOR BEHAVIORAL PATTERNS AND  
10 RELATIONSHIP DYNAMICS WITHIN THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE.

11 (c) (I) THE OFFICE OF THE CHILD'S REPRESENTATIVE SHALL REPORT  
12 TO THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR THE EXISTING TRAINING ON  
13 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILD ABUSE AND THE HOURS OF TRAINING  
14 COMPLETED FOR GUARDIANS AD LITEM, COUNSEL FOR YOUTH, AND CHILD'S  
15 LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES WHO CONTRACT WITH THE OFFICE OF THE CHILD'S  
16 REPRESENTATIVE AND ARE INVOLVED IN PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY  
17 PROCEEDINGS PURSUANT TO THIS TITLE 14.

18 (II) SPECIAL MASTERS AND MEDIATORS WHO ARE INVOLVED IN  
19 PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY PROCEEDINGS PURSUANT TO THIS TITLE 14  
20 SHALL REPORT TO THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR THE EXISTING  
21 TRAINING ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILD ABUSE AND THE HOURS OF  
22 TRAINING COMPLETED.

23 (6) (a) A PROFESSIONAL TRAINER SHALL CONDUCT THE REQUIRED  
24 TRAINING SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS SECTION. THE  
25 PROFESSIONAL TRAINER SHALL HAVE SUBSTANTIAL EXPERIENCE IN  
26 ASSISTING SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR CHILD ABUSE. A  
27 PROFESSIONAL TRAINER MAY INCLUDE A PROFESSIONAL REPRESENTING A

1 VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDER.

2 (b) THE PROFESSIONAL TRAINER DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (6)(a)  
3 OF THIS SECTION SHALL RELY ON EVIDENCE-BASED AND PEER-REVIEWED  
4 RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY RECOGNIZED EXPERTS OR RESEARCH  
5 CONDUCTED IN THE FIELD BY RECOGNIZED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM  
6 ADVOCATES THAT FOCUSES ON THE TYPES OF ABUSE DESCRIBED IN  
7 SUBSECTION (5)(b) OF THIS SECTION AND SHALL NOT INCLUDE THEORIES,  
8 CONCEPTS, OR BELIEF SYSTEMS IN THE REQUIRED TRAINING THAT ARE NOT  
9 SUPPORTED BY EVIDENCE-BASED AND PEER-REVIEWED RESEARCH OR  
10 RESEARCH CONDUCTED IN THE FIELD BY RECOGNIZED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
11 VICTIM ADVOCATES.

12 (c) THE REQUIRED TRAINING MUST BE DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE  
13 ABILITY OF COURTS TO:

14 (I) RECOGNIZE AND RESPOND TO CHILD PHYSICAL ABUSE, CHILD  
15 SEXUAL ABUSE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND TRAUMA IN ALL FAMILY  
16 VICTIMS, PARTICULARLY CHILDREN; AND

17 (II) MAKE APPROPRIATE CUSTODY DECISIONS THAT PRIORITIZE  
18 CHILD SAFETY AND WELL-BEING AND THAT ARE CULTURALLY SENSITIVE  
19 AND APPROPRIATE FOR DIVERSE COMMUNITIES.

20 (7) (a) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER JULY 1, 2023, THE JUDICIAL  
21 BRANCH SHALL APPLY TO THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE'S OFFICE  
22 OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR A GRANT INCREASE IN COMPLIANCE WITH  
23 THE FEDERAL "KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE FROM FAMILY VIOLENCE ACT",  
24 34 U.S.C. SEC. 10446, AS AMENDED.

25 (b) (I) SUBSECTIONS (1), (2)(a), (2)(b), (2)(c), (2)(e), (3), (5), AND  
26 (6) OF THIS SECTION TAKE EFFECT AT 12:01 A.M. THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE  
27 DATE IDENTIFIED IN THE WRITTEN NOTICE PROVIDED TO THE REVISOR OF

1 STATUTES BY THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR THAT THE JUDICIAL  
2 BRANCH HAS BEEN AWARDED A GRANT INCREASE PURSUANT TO THE  
3 FEDERAL "KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE FROM FAMILY VIOLENCE ACT", 34  
4 U.S.C. SEC. 10446, AS AMENDED, OR ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE TO THE  
5 REVISOR OF STATUTES IF THE NOTICE DOES NOT SPECIFY A DIFFERENT DATE.

6 (II) THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR SHALL NOTIFY THE REVISOR  
7 OF STATUTES IN WRITING WHEN THE CONDITION SPECIFIED IN (7)(b)(I) OF  
8 THIS SECTION HAS OCCURRED BY EMAILING THE NOTICE TO  
9 REVISOROFSTATUTES.GA@COLEG.GOV.

10 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 14-10-116.5, **amend**  
11 (2)(f) as follows:

12 **14-10-116.5. Appointment in domestic relations cases - child**  
13 **and family investigator - disclosure - background check.** (2) (f) The  
14 court shall not appoint a person from the eligibility registry to be a child  
15 and family investigator for a case pursuant to this section unless the court  
16 finds that the person is qualified as competent by training and experience  
17 in, at a minimum, domestic violence and its effects on children, adults,  
18 and families, child abuse, and child sexual abuse IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
19 SECTION 14-10-127.5. The person's training and experience must be  
20 provided by recognized sources with expertise in domestic violence and  
21 the traumatic effects of domestic violence IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION  
22 14-10-127.5. As of January 1, ~~2022~~ 2024, initial and ongoing training  
23 must include, at a minimum:

24 (I) ~~Six~~ TEN initial hours of training on domestic violence,  
25 including coercive control, and its traumatic effects on children, adults,  
26 and families;

27 (II) ~~Six~~ TEN initial hours of training on child abuse and child

1 sexual abuse and its traumatic effects; and

2 (III) ~~Four~~ FIFTEEN subsequent hours of training every ~~two~~ FIVE  
3 years on domestic violence, including coercive control, child abuse, and  
4 child sexual abuse, and the traumatic effects on children, adults, and  
5 families.

6 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 14-10-127, **amend**  
7 (4)(a.5) as follows:

8 **14-10-127. Evaluation and reports - training and qualifications**  
9 **of evaluators - disclosure.** (4) A person is not allowed to testify as an  
10 expert witness regarding a parental responsibilities or parenting time  
11 evaluation that the person has performed pursuant to this section unless  
12 the court finds that the person is qualified as competent, by training and  
13 experience, in the areas of:

14 (a.5) The effects of domestic violence on children, adults, and  
15 families, including the connection between domestic violence and trauma  
16 on children, child abuse, and child sexual abuse IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
17 SECTION 14-10-127.5. The person's training and experience must be  
18 provided by recognized sources with expertise in domestic violence and  
19 the traumatic effects of domestic violence IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION  
20 14-10-127.5. As of January 1, ~~2022~~ 2024, initial and ongoing training  
21 must include, at a minimum:

22 (I) ~~Six~~ TEN initial hours of training on domestic violence,  
23 including coercive control, and its traumatic effects on children, adults,  
24 and families;

25 (II) ~~Six~~ TEN initial hours of training on child abuse and child  
26 sexual abuse and its traumatic effects; and

27 (III) ~~Four~~ FIFTEEN subsequent hours of training every ~~two~~ FIVE

1 years on domestic violence, child abuse, and child sexual abuse and the  
2 traumatic effects on children, adults, and families.

3 **SECTION 4. Effective date.** (1) Except as otherwise provided  
4 in subsection (2) and (3) of this section, this act takes effect upon passage.

5 (2) Section 14-10-127.5 (2)(d) and (4), Colorado Revised Statutes,  
6 as enacted in section 1 of this act, take effect only if House Bill 23-1108  
7 becomes law, in which case section 24-10-127.5 (2)(d) and (4) take effect  
8 on the effective date of this act or House Bill 23-1108, whichever is later.

9 (3) Section 14-10-127.5 (1), (2)(a), (2)(b), (2)(c), (2)(e), (3), (5),  
10 and (6), Colorado Revised Statutes, and section 2 and 3 of this act take  
11 effect only if the federal department of justice's office of the attorney  
12 general awards a grant increase pursuant to the federal "Keeping Children  
13 Safe From Family Violence Act", 34 U.S.C. sec. 10446, as amended, and  
14 take effect thirty days after the date identified in the written notice from  
15 the state court administrator to the revisor of statutes, as required in  
16 section 1 of this act, that the judicial branch has been awarded a grant  
17 increase or, if the notice does not specify that date, on the date of the  
18 notice to the revisor of statutes, or on the effective date of this act,  
19 whichever is later.

20 **SECTION 5. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
21 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
22 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.