

AN ACT relating to drug-dependent newborns.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 218A IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) Substance abuse treatment or recovery service providers that receive state funding shall give pregnant women priority in accessing services and shall not refuse access to services solely due to pregnancy as long as the provider's services are appropriate for pregnant women.

(2) Any practitioner treating a pregnant woman consistent with the standard of care of a reasonably prudent practitioner in like or similar circumstances shall not be liable for failing to recognize controlled substance abuse by a pregnant patient.

(3) Any practitioner who refers or encourages a pregnant woman to initiate treatment for controlled substance abuse consistent with the standard of care of a reasonably prudent practitioner in like or similar circumstances shall be presumed to be acting in good faith and shall have immunity from civil liability that might otherwise result from such actions.

➔Section 2. KRS 625.050 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) A petition for involuntary termination of parental rights shall be entitled "In the interest of ..., a child."
- (2) The petition shall be filed in the Circuit Court for any of the following counties:
 - (a) The county in which either parent resides or may be found;
 - (b) The county in which juvenile court actions, if any, concerning the child have commenced; or
 - (c) The county in which the child involved resides or is present.
- (3) Proceedings for involuntary termination of parental rights may be initiated upon petition by the cabinet, any child-placing agency licensed by the cabinet, any county or Commonwealth's attorney, or a parent.

- (4) The petition for involuntary termination of parental rights shall be verified and contain the following:
- (a) Name and mailing address of each petitioner;
 - (b) Name, sex, date of birth and place of residence of the child;
 - (c) Name and address of the living parents of the child;
 - (d) Name, date of death and cause of death, if known, of any deceased parent;
 - (e) Name and address of the putative father, if known by the petitioner, of the child if not the same person as the legal father;
 - (f) Name and address of the person, cabinet or agency having custody of the child;
 - (g) Name and identity of the person, cabinet or authorized agency to whom custody is sought to be transferred;
 - (h) Statement that the person, cabinet or agency to whom custody is to be given has facilities available and is willing to receive the custody of the child;
 - (i) All pertinent information concerning termination or disclaimers of parenthood or voluntary consent to termination;
 - (j) Information as to the legal status of the child and the court so adjudicating; and
 - (k) A concise statement of the factual basis for the termination of parental rights.
- (5) No petition may be filed under this section prior to five (5) days after the birth of the child.
- (6) No petition may be filed to terminate the parental rights of a pregnant woman solely because of her use of a controlled substance during pregnancy if she, by the twentieth week of her pregnancy, enrolls in and maintains compliance with both a substance abuse treatment or recovery program and a regimen of prenatal care as recommended by her healthcare practitioner throughout the remaining term of her pregnancy.**