

Caddo Parish Juvenile Court

Judge Justin H. Courtney

December 2025



Caddo Parish Juvenile Court
1835 Spring Street
Shreveport, LA 71001

Chief Judge Ree J. Casey-Jones
Division "C" (318) 226-6757

Judge Natalie Howell
Division "B"(318) 226-6587

Judge Justin Courtney
Division "A" (318) 226-6755

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 303

Exclusive jurisdiction over children, youth, and minors; exceptions

A court exercising juvenile jurisdiction shall have exclusive original jurisdiction over:

- (1) **Delinquency** proceedings pursuant to Title VIII,¹ except when a child either:
 - (a) Is subject to the jurisdiction of the criminal courts for prosecution and liability as an adult pursuant to Chapter 4 of this Title.²
 - (b) Has been transferred by the juvenile court for criminal prosecution and liability as an adult pursuant to Chapter 11 of Title VIII.³
- (2) **Child in need of care** proceedings pursuant to Title VI.⁴
- (3) **Families in need of services** proceedings pursuant to Title VII.⁵
- (4) **Traffic** proceedings pursuant to Title IX.⁶
- (5) **Involuntary termination of parental rights** proceedings pursuant to Title X.⁷
- (6) **Voluntary termination of parental rights** proceedings pursuant to Title XI.⁸
- (7) **Adoption** proceedings pursuant to Title XI or XII.⁹
- (8) Mental health proceedings pursuant to Title XIV.¹⁰
- (9) Any special proceeding authorized by Title XV,¹¹ except domestic abuse assistance proceedings brought in a district court pursuant to R.S. 46:2131 et seq.
- (10) Any proceeding necessary to implement the provisions of interstate compacts affecting children pursuant to Title XVI.¹²
- (11) Such other jurisdiction over children as may be provided by law.
- (12) **Extended foster care** proceedings as provided for by R.S. 46:288.1 et seq., to review the written report and make a determination whether it is in the youth's best interest to continue in extended foster care in a voluntary placement. For purposes of this Subparagraph, "youth" shall have the same meaning as provided in R.S. 46:288.2.

Credits

Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 3, eff. Jan. 1, 1992. Amended by Acts 1992, No. 705, § 1, eff. July 6, 1992; Acts 2001, No. 567, § 1; Acts 2019, No. 400, § 1, eff. June 19, 2019.

Specialty Courts

- CPJC operates six specialty courts providing services to children and families of Caddo Parish
- **Juvenile Drug Court**- a drug treatment program for adjudicated juvenile offenders with identified substance abuse issues
- **Family Preservation Court**- a drug treatment program for the parents of children adjudicated as Children in Need of Care with identified substance abuse issues
- **I.D.D. Court** -"Individualized Disposition Docket"- intensive supervision program for adjudicated youth with identified mental health issues.
- **Truancy Court**- addresses school absenteeism; a child is referred to the District Attorney for potential court proceedings when more than 5 days are missed in a school semester
- **S.T.A.R. Court**-"Succeeding Through Achievement and Resilience"- a program for adjudicated youth who have been identified as or are vulnerable to Human Trafficking. This court provides services to empower the participants to live successful, independent lives.
- **Good Support**- a program designed to help find employment for parents before the court on child support matters

Caddo Parish Juvenile Court
Juvenile Judicial Activity: Formal Process
January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024

	Caddo 2023		
	Filings	Charges	Children ¹
Formal FINS (LChC Title VII, esp 746 et. Seq.)	373	373	373
Juvenile Traffic (LChC Title IX)	316	495	316
Juvenile Delinquency (LChC Title VIII)	892	1,810	892
Mental Incapacity to Proceed (LChC 833-838) ²	8	8	8
Interstate Compact for Juveniles (LChC 1661-1673)	9	9	9
Contempt of Court (LChC 1503-1509.1)	125	125	125
Child in Need of Care Cases (LChC Title VI)	122		250
Voluntary Transfer of Custody (LChC 1510-1523)	13		13
Jud. Certification of Children for Adoption Cases (LChC Title X)	12		18
Surrender of Parental Rights (LChC Title XI)	72		72
Adoption (LChC Title XII)	19		24
Child Support (LChC Title XIII)	642		850
Mental Health (LChC Title XIV)	47		47
Misdemeanor Prosecution of Adults/Other (LChC 1524 - 1532)/other	1		1
Minor Marriages (LChC 1543-1550)	1		1
Protection of Terminally Ill Children (LChC 1551-1563)	0		0
Domestic Abuse (LChC 1564-1757)	116		116
Other	854		854
Total	3622	2820	3969

Caddo 2024		
Filings	Charges	Children ¹
470	470	470
207	328	207
741	1,539	741
0	0	0
17	24	17
122	122	122
119		215
11		11
15		15
13		13
39		39
595		785
65		65
13		13
1		2
0		0
4		4
1,071		1,071
3,503	2,483	3,790

¹ The category of Children denotes the number of children listed in filed petitions for each case type

² Mental Incapacity to Proceed is a subset of the category of Delinquency. The event is enumerated separately as it is considered a significant delinquency event.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 305

Divestiture of juvenile court jurisdiction; original criminal court jurisdiction over children

A. (1) When a child is fifteen years of age or older at the time of the commission of first degree murder, second degree murder, aggravated or first degree rape, or aggravated kidnapping, he is subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the juvenile court until either:

- (a) An indictment charging one of these offenses is returned.
- (b) The juvenile court holds a continued custody hearing pursuant to Articles 819 and 820 and finds probable cause that he committed one of these offenses, whichever occurs first. During this hearing, when the child is charged with aggravated or first degree rape, the court shall inform him that if convicted he shall register as a sex offender for life, pursuant to Chapter 3-B of Title 15 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

(2)(a) The district attorney shall have the discretion to file a petition alleging any of the offenses listed in Subparagraph (1) of this Paragraph in the juvenile court or, alternatively, to obtain an indictment. If the child is being held in detention, the district attorney shall file the petition or indictment in the appropriate court within sixty calendar days after the child's arrest, unless the child waives this right.

(b) Failure to institute prosecution as provided in this Subparagraph shall result in release of the child if, after a contradictory hearing with the district attorney, just cause for the failure is not shown. If just cause is shown, the court shall reconsider bail for the child. Failure to institute prosecution as provided in this Subparagraph shall result in the release of the bail obligation if, after a contradictory hearing with the district attorney, just cause for the delay is not shown.

(c) When the juvenile court holds a continued custody hearing pursuant to Articles 819 and 820 and finds probable cause that the child committed one of the offenses listed in Subparagraph (1) of this Paragraph, the time limitations contained in this Code are inapplicable, and the time period for filing an indictment after arrest shall be governed by Code of Criminal Procedure Article 701.

(3) Thereafter, if an indictment is returned, the child is subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the appropriate court exercising criminal jurisdiction for all subsequent procedures, including the review of bail applications, and the court exercising criminal jurisdiction may order that the child be transferred to the appropriate adult facility for detention prior to his trial as an adult. If the district attorney elects to file a petition and the child waives the right to a continued custody hearing, the child is subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the juvenile court for all subsequent procedures, including the review of bail applications.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 305 (Continued)

Divestiture of juvenile court jurisdiction; original criminal court jurisdiction over children

- B. (1) When a child is fifteen years of age or older at the time of the commission of any of the offenses listed in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph, he is subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the juvenile court until whichever of the following occurs first:
- (a) An indictment charging one of the offenses listed in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph is returned.
 - (b) The juvenile court holds a continued custody hearing and finds probable cause that the child has committed any of the offenses listed in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph and a bill of information charging any of the offenses listed in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph is filed. During this hearing, when the child is charged with forcible or second degree rape or second degree kidnapping, the court shall inform him that if convicted he shall register as a sex offender for life, pursuant to Chapter 3-B of Title 15 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.
- (2)(a) Attempted first degree murder.
- (b) Attempted second degree murder.
- (c) Manslaughter.
- (d) Armed robbery.
- (e) Aggravated burglary.
- (f) Forcible or second degree rape.
- (g) Simple or third degree rape.
- (h) Second degree kidnapping.
- (i) Repealed by Acts 2001, No. 301, § 2.
- (j) Aggravated battery committed with a firearm.
- (k) A second or subsequent aggravated battery.
- (l) A second or subsequent aggravated burglary.
- (m) A second or subsequent offense of burglary of an inhabited dwelling.
- (n) A second or subsequent felony-grade violation of Part X or X-B of Chapter 4 of Title 40 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 involving the manufacture, distribution, or possession with intent to distribute controlled dangerous substances.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 305 (Continued)

Divestiture of juvenile court jurisdiction; original criminal court jurisdiction over children

- (3)(a) The district attorney shall have the discretion to file a petition alleging any of the offenses listed in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph in the juvenile court or, alternatively, to obtain an indictment or file a bill of information. If the child is being held in detention, the district attorney shall file the indictment, bill of information, or petition in the appropriate court within sixty calendar days after the child's arrest, unless the child waives this right.
- (b) Failure to institute prosecution as provided in this Subparagraph shall result in release of the child if, after a contradictory hearing with the district attorney, just cause for the failure is not shown. If just cause is shown, the court shall reconsider bail for the child. Failure to institute prosecution as provided in this Subparagraph shall result in the release of the bail obligation if, after a contradictory hearing with the district attorney, just cause for the delay is not shown.
- (4) If an indictment is returned or a bill of information is filed, the child is subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the appropriate court exercising criminal jurisdiction for all subsequent procedures, including the review of bail applications, and the district court may order that the child be transferred to the appropriate adult facility for detention prior to his trial as an adult.
- C. Except when a juvenile is held in an adult jail or lockup, the time limitations for the conduct of a continued custody hearing are those provided by Article 819.
- D. The court exercising criminal jurisdiction shall retain jurisdiction over the child's case, even though he pleads guilty to or is convicted of a lesser included offense. A plea to or conviction of a lesser included offense shall not revest jurisdiction in the court exercising juvenile jurisdiction over such a child.
- E. (1) If a competency or sanity examination is ordered, except for the filing of a delinquency petition, the return of an indictment, or the filing of a bill of information, no further steps to prosecute the child shall occur until the court exercising criminal jurisdiction appoints counsel for the child and provides notification in accordance with Article 809 and determines the child's mental capacity to proceed.
- (2) When an indictment has been returned or a bill of information has been filed pursuant to this Subsection, the district court exercising criminal jurisdiction shall be the proper court to determine the child's mental capacity to proceed. In all other instances, the juvenile court shall be the proper court to make this determination.

***The Louisiana Supreme Court held art. 305 unconstitutional in State in the interest of D.T. as to the provision regarding Aggravated Battery committed with a firearm

Statute providing for divestiture of juvenile court jurisdiction when child has been charged with aggravated battery committed with firearm is unconstitutional on its face; aggravated battery committed with firearm is not among the charges which are listed as permissible exceptions to the juvenile court's jurisdiction, as prescribed in State Constitution. State in Interest of D.T., Sup.2020, 340 So.3d 745, 2019-01445 (La. 4/3/20).

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 857

Transfers for criminal prosecution; authority

A. The court on its own motion or on motion of the district attorney may conduct a hearing to consider whether to transfer a child for prosecution to the appropriate court exercising criminal jurisdiction if a delinquency petition has been filed which alleges that a child who is fourteen years of age or older at the time of the commission of the alleged offense but is not otherwise subject to the original jurisdiction of a court exercising criminal jurisdiction has committed any one or more of the following crimes:

- (1) First degree murder.
- (2) Second degree murder.
- (3) Aggravated kidnapping.
- (4) Aggravated or first degree rape.
- (5) Aggravated battery when committed by the discharge of a firearm.
- (6) Armed robbery when committed with a firearm.
- (7) Repealed by Acts 2001, No. 301, § 2.
- (8) Forcible or second degree rape if the rape is committed upon a child at least two years younger than the rapist.

B. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a fourteen-year-old who is transferred pursuant to this Article and subsequently convicted shall not be confined for such conviction beyond his thirty-first birthday.

C. (1) An adult who is charged with an offense committed at the time he was a child for which the time limitation for the institution of prosecution pursuant to Code of Criminal Procedure Article 571 has not lapsed and for which he was subject to prosecution as an adult due to his age at the time the offense was committed shall be prosecuted as an adult in the appropriate court exercising criminal jurisdiction. If convicted, he shall be punished as an adult as provided by law.

(2) An adult who is charged with an offense committed at the time he was a child for which the time limitation for the institution of prosecution pursuant to Code of Criminal Procedure Article 571 has not lapsed and for which he was not subject to prosecution as an adult due to his age at the time the offense was committed shall be prosecuted as an adult in the appropriate court exercising criminal jurisdiction. If convicted, he shall be committed to the custody of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to be confined in secure placement for a period of time as determined by the court not to exceed the maximum amount of confinement he could have been ordered to serve had he been adjudicated for the offense as a child at the time the offense was committed.

Credits

Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 8, eff. Jan. 1, 1992. Amended by Acts 1993, No. 634, § 1, eff. June 15, 1993; Acts 1994, 3rd Ex.Sess., No. 15, § 1; Acts 1994, 3rd Ex.Sess., No. 39, § 1; Acts 1997, No. 1137, § 1, eff. July 14, 1997; Acts 2008, No. 670, § 1; Acts 2010, No. 805, § 1; Acts 2015, No. 184, § 8.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 862

Transfer hearing; required findings

- A. In order for a motion to transfer a child to be granted, the burden shall be upon the state to prove all of the following:
- (1) Probable cause exists that the child meets the requirements of Article 857.
 - (2) By clear and convincing proof, there is no substantial opportunity for the child's rehabilitation through facilities available to the court, based upon the following criteria:
 - (a) The age, maturity, both mental and physical, and sophistication of the child.
 - (b) The nature and seriousness of the alleged offense to the community and whether the protection of the community requires transfer.
 - (c) The child's prior acts of delinquency, if any, and their nature and seriousness.
 - (d) Past efforts at rehabilitation and treatment, if any, and the child's response.
 - (e) Whether the child's behavior might be related to physical or mental problems.
 - (f) Techniques, programs, personnel, and facilities available to the juvenile court which might be competent to deal with the child's particular problems.
- B. The court shall state for the record its reasons for judgment.
- C. (1) The court shall transmit the order rendered after the hearing or a certified copy thereof, without delay, to the clerk of court having jurisdiction of the offense.
- (2) Any party may request the court to provide a complete or partial transcript of the testimony of the witnesses; however, neither the record of the hearing nor the reasons for the transfer shall be admissible in evidence in any subsequent criminal proceedings, except for the purpose of impeachment of a witness.

Credits
Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 8, eff. Jan. 1, 1992. Amended by Acts 1992, No. 705, § 1, eff. July 6, 1992; Acts 1993, No. 634, § 1, eff. June 15, 1993.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 863

Effect of transfer order; review

A. An order of transfer terminates the jurisdiction of the court exercising juvenile jurisdiction over the child with respect to the delinquent acts alleged in the petition. The appropriate court exercising criminal jurisdiction shall retain jurisdiction over the case, even though the child pleads guilty to, or is convicted of, a lesser included offense. The plea to, or conviction of, a lesser included offense shall not revest juvenile jurisdiction over such child.

B. The decision of the court regarding transfer of the case to the court exercising criminal jurisdiction is only an interlocutory judgment which either the child or the state, or both, have the right to have reviewed summarily by the appropriate court of appeal. Such review shall be by preference.

Credits

Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 8, eff. Jan. 1, 1992.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 312

Juvenile jurisdiction over adults; criminal proceedings

A. A court exercising juvenile jurisdiction shall have exclusive original jurisdiction, in conformity with any special rules prescribed by law, to try an adult for the following offenses:

- (1) The crime of **contributing to the delinquency or dependency of children** as authorized by R.S. 14:92.1.
- (2) **Criminal neglect of family**
- (3) The crime of **improper supervision of a minor by parent or legal custodian** as authorized by R.S. 14:92.2.

B. (1) Except as provided in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph, a district court shall have exclusive original jurisdiction, in conformity with any special rules prescribed by law, to try an adult for the following offenses:

- (a) The crime of contributing to the delinquency of children as authorized by R.S. 14:92.
- (b) Any other misdemeanor enacted for the protection of the physical, moral, or mental well-being of children.

(2) In Orleans Parish, jurisdiction pursuant to Subparagraph (1) of this Paragraph is vested in the criminal district court for that parish or the Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans.

C. If the defendant in any case within this Article is entitled to trial by jury and does not waive that right, the court shall transfer the case to its criminal docket or to the appropriate court having criminal jurisdiction.

Credits

Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 3, eff. Jan. 1, 1992. Amended by Acts 1995, No. 702, § 1; Acts 1997, No. 569, § 1; Acts 2011, 1st Ex.Sess., No. 28, § 1; Acts 2017, No. 193, § 1.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 313

Duration of jurisdiction over proceedings

A. A court exercising juvenile jurisdiction no longer exercises such jurisdiction in any proceeding authorized by this Code upon:

- (1) Declination of jurisdiction.
- (2) Transfer of the proceeding.
- (3) Expiration or satisfaction of an informal adjustment agreement.
- (4) Expiration or satisfaction of an informal family services plan agreement.
- (5) Expiration, satisfaction, or vacation of a juvenile disposition or adult sentence.
- (6) Dismissal of the proceeding.

B. A court exercising juvenile jurisdiction no longer exercises such jurisdiction in any proceeding authorized by Article 311(B)(1) upon the filing of a motion in accordance with R.S. 46:236.2(B)(2). When the motion is granted, the individual or caretaker to whom the support obligation is owed shall be the proper party to enforce the child support obligation or any arrears owed.

Credits
Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 3, eff. Jan. 1, 1992. Amended by Acts 1992, No. 705, § 1, eff. July 6, 1992; Acts 2010, No. 913, § 1; Acts 2018, No. 373, § 1, eff. Oct. 1, 2018.

DELINQUENCY

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 804

Definitions

As used in this Title:

(1)(a) **Before March 1, 2019, and on or after April 19, 2024**, “child” means any person under the age of twenty-one, including an emancipated minor, who commits a delinquent act before attaining **seventeen years of age**.

(b) From March 1, 2019, and until June 30, 2020, “child” means any person under the age of twenty-one, including an emancipated minor, who commits a delinquent act on or after March 1, 2019, until June 30, 2020, when the act is not a crime of violence as defined in R.S. 14:2 and occurs before the person attains eighteen years of age.

(c) From July 1, 2020, until April 19, 2024, “child” means any person under the age of twenty-one, including an emancipated minor, who commits a delinquent act on or after July 1, 2020, until April 19, 2024, and before the person attains eighteen years of age.

(3) “Delinquent act” means an act committed **by a child of ten years of age or older** which if committed by an adult is designated an offense under the statutes or ordinances of this state, or of another state if the offense occurred there, or under federal law, except traffic violations. It includes an act constituting an offense under R.S. 14:95.8, an act constituting an offense under R.S. 14:81.1.1(A)(2), and a direct contempt of court committed by a child. “Delinquent act” shall not include a violation of R.S. 14:82, 83.3, 83.4, 89, or 89.2 for a child who, during the time of the alleged commission of the offense, was a victim of trafficking of children for sexual purposes pursuant to R.S. 14:46.3(E).

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 805

Venue

A. A delinquency proceeding shall be commenced in the parish in which the offense complained of took place. The juvenile court shall conduct the adjudication hearing and may also conduct the disposition hearing unless it decides to transfer the case as provided for in Paragraph B of this Article.

B. Upon motion of the district attorney, the child, or upon the court's own motion, after the confection of an informal adjustment agreement or an adjudication that the child is delinquent, the court may transfer the proceeding to the parish in which the child is domiciled.

Credits
Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 8, eff. Jan. 1, 1992.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 8o8

Constitutional rights of accused delinquents

All rights guaranteed to criminal defendants by the Constitution of the United States or the Constitution of Louisiana, **except the right to jury trial**, shall be applicable in juvenile court proceedings brought under this Title.

Credits

Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 8, eff. Jan. 1, 1992.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 809

Right to counsel

A. At every stage of proceedings under this Title, the accused child shall be entitled to the assistance of counsel at state expense. The court shall appoint counsel or refer the child for representation by the district public defender.

B. If a parent secures the services of retained counsel, the court-appointed counsel or public defender shall continue to represent the child until retained counsel has enrolled as counsel of record.

C. No child shall be admitted in accordance with this Title to a public or private mental institution or institution for persons with mental illness nor shall proceedings in accordance with Chapter 7 of this Title or Article 869 go forward unless he has been represented by retained private counsel who represents only the child's interest or by an attorney from the Mental Health Advocacy Service, unless its executive director has determined that its attorneys are unavailable. Any attorney from the Mental Health Advocacy Service so appointed shall continue to represent the child in any proceeding relating to admission, change of status, or discharge from the mental hospital or psychiatric unit. Upon modification of the disposition to placement other than a mental hospital or psychiatric unit, the Mental Health Advocacy Service's attorney shall be relieved of representation of the child upon request of the Mental Health Advocacy Service or the child.

D. If the court finds that the interests of the child and his parent or caretaker conflict, or if required in the interests of justice, the court shall appoint an attorney to represent the child or refer him for representation by the district public defender.

E. The clerk of court shall promptly send notice of appointment to any attorney appointed in accordance with this Article.

Credits

Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 8, eff. Jan. 1, 1992. Amended by Acts 1992, No. 705, § 1, eff. July 6, 1992; Acts 2004, No. 776, § 1; Acts 2006, No. 266, § 1; Acts 2007, No. 307, § 9, eff. Aug. 15, 2007; Acts 2010, No. 593, § 1; Acts 2014, No. 811, § 33, eff. June 23, 2014.

Attorney appointment information

State Bar Articles of Incorporation, Art. 14, Rules of Prof.Conduct, Rule 6.2 LSA-R.S. foll. 37:222Formerly cited as LA
ST BAR ART 16 RPC Rule 6.2
Rule 6.2. Accepting Appointments

Formerly cited as LA ST BAR ART 16 RPC Rule 6.2

A lawyer shall not seek to avoid appointment by a tribunal to represent a person except for good cause, such as:

- (a) representing the client is likely to result in violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct or other law;
- (b) representing the client is likely to result in an unreasonable financial burden on the lawyer; or
- (c) the client or the cause is so repugnant to the lawyer as to be likely to impair the client-lawyer relationship or the lawyer's ability to represent the client.

Attorney Appointment CLE Credit

- If appointed you are eligible to receive 1 hour of CLE credit for every 5 hours of pro bono representation up to 3 hours per calendar year
- Must apply using the "Application for Pro Bono CLE Credit" found on the Louisiana State Bar Association's website

LSA-Ch.C. Art 811.1 The Rights of the Victim of a Delinquent Act

The alleged victim of a delinquent act shall:

- Be notified is the alleged delinquent is taken into custody
- Be notified of hearings relating to the alleged delinquent
- Be notified of the release of an alleged delinquent pending adjudication for a violent offense
- Be notified of an alleged delinquent's escape from lawful confinement if the underlying offense if violent
- Be notified if a case they are subpoenaed for will be continued and they are not required to be present
- Be informed by the sheriff of any financial assistance or services available as a result of being a victim of a crime
- Be provided a secure waiting area during court proceedings
- Have stolen items or personal property returned as expeditiously as possible when no longer needed as evidence
- Receive emergency, social or medical services as soon as possible
- Be interviewed by law enforcement in a private setting
- Have the right to retain counsel to confer on the disposition of the case
- Be consulted in the case of a homicide or injury to a minor regarding disposition or dispositional alternatives available
- Be notified of the availability of a victim notice form with the Department of Public Safety and Corrections
- Get assistance by the prosecution in letting their employer know they will be needed for court hearings

The court, district attorney, sheriff and law enforcement are exempt from these requirements if the alleged victim:

- Refuses the services offered or
- Fails to provide a current address

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 813

Taking child into custody with a court order; filing of verified complaint; execution

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LSA-Ch.C. Art. 815
Child taken into custody; place of detention

A. (1) The peace officer or an appropriate representative of the arresting agency shall have the authority and responsibility to transport the child to the appropriate place of detention as specified in this Article, unless the child has been released to the care of his parents pursuant to Article 814(B)(1). Beginning July 1, 2020, a detention screening instrument shall be administered to the child prior to transportation of the child to the appropriate place of detention or upon the child's arrival at the appropriate place of detention, unless it cannot be completed at that time. If the detention screening instrument cannot be completed prior to the child's transportation to the appropriate place of detention or upon the child's arrival at the appropriate place of detention, the detention screening instrument shall be completed as soon as possible after the child has been admitted into the detention center.

Reasonable efforts shall be made to administer the instrument at the earliest possible time.

(2) The detention screening instrument shall include, but need not be limited to, consideration of the following factors:

- (a) The current offense for which the child was taken into custody.
- (b) The child's history of prior delinquent acts.
- (c) The child's history of failure to appear.
- (d) The child's history of being a runaway.
- (e) Any mitigating and aggravating circumstances.

(3) When the child is detained prior to the completion of the detention screening instrument, the results of the detention screening instrument shall be communicated to the court promptly upon its completion.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 815 (Continued)

Child taken into custody; place of detention

B. Except as provided in Paragraph E of this Article, if the child has been taken into custody for the commission of a felony-grade delinquent act or of a misdemeanor-grade delinquent act based upon an offense against the person of another, the child may be taken to a juvenile detention center and the procedures regarding the administration of the detention screening instrument set forth in Paragraph A of this Article shall apply.

C. Except as provided in Paragraph E of this Article, for the commission of any other misdemeanor-grade delinquent act, the child may be taken to a juvenile detention center or shelter care facility or released to a parent or guardian upon the written promise of the parent or guardian to bring the child to court pursuant to Article 814. If the child is not released to a parent or guardian, the officer shall follow the procedures set forth in Paragraph A of this Article.

D. The governing authority of the parish or municipality requesting placement of a juvenile in either a regional detention center or a shelter care facility shall be responsible to the regional detention center or shelter care facility for the cost of confinement in accordance with a schedule which may be adopted by the regional detention center or shelter care facility.

E. No child under the age of thirteen shall be detained in a juvenile detention center after being taken into custody for the alleged commission of a misdemeanor-grade delinquent act.

F. If a juvenile detention center is not available, a juvenile may be held in an adult jail or lockup for purposes of and only as long as necessary to complete identification or processing procedures or while awaiting transportation, but not to exceed six hours. However, in nonmetropolitan areas, the juvenile may be held for up to forty-eight hours if all of the following occur:

- (1) The juvenile is accused of a nonstatus offense.
- (2) A continued custody hearing in accordance with Articles 820 and 821 is held within forty-eight hours after his arrest.
- (3) There is no acceptable alternative placement to the jail or lockup in which the juvenile is being held.
- (4) The sheriff or the administrator of the adult jail or lockup has certified to the court that facilities exist that provide for sight and sound separation of the juvenile from adult offenders and the juvenile can be given continuous visual supervision while placed in the jail or lockup.

Credits

Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 8, eff. Jan. 1, 1992. Amended by Acts 1993, No. 818, § 1; Acts 1995, No. 1158, § 1; Acts 1999, No. 1356, § 1, eff. July 12, 1999; Acts 2004, No. 120, § 1; Acts 2016, No. 499, § 2; Acts 2019, No. 147, § 1; Acts 2023, No. 445, § 1, eff. June 28, 2023.

Caddo Parish Juvenile Detention Center

- Operated by the Parish of Caddo through the Juvenile Services Division
- Located at the Juvenile Court complex
- 24 bed facility that houses children ages 10-17 who have been accused of a crime and are pending trial
- The facility has 3 pods with 8 cells each housing a single resident per pod. 2 additional cells are reserved for medical or mental health emergencies
- The alleged offenders have access to medical care through a nurse and staff doctor and a mental health counselor.
- The alleged offenders also attend classes five days a week to maintain their education

Caddo Parish Juvenile Detention Center Performance Measures

**As reported by the Parish of Caddo as of September 2025*

	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual
Inputs:			
Detention Center Intakes	380	343	230
Average Probation Caseload	405	531	436
Multiple Detention Intake	75	66	219
Intake Non-duplicated children	300	277	174
Effectiveness Measures:			
School-Based Arrest	25		13
Gun Charges	100	49	29
State Charges	85	57	
Transfer Cases	12	7	1
Truancy Petitions	300	147	7
Efficiency Measures:			
Number of youths administered Risk Assessment Instrument screening at time of detention admission	380	343	131
Number of youths receiving psychological evaluations	40	30	
Number of drug screen administered to youths	1400	786	869
Number of youths and their parents in FINS program	600	629	519

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 817

Release from custody

- A. As soon as practicable after a child is received by a juvenile detention center or shelter care facility, the court or an individual or entity authorized by the court to make the determination, shall, upon determining it to be appropriate, release the child to the care of his parents or other relatives upon their written promise to bring him to court at such times as may be fixed by the court. The court may also impose reasonable restrictions upon the child's travel, place of abode, association with other people, or employment during the period of this release.
- B. If the court finds that these conditions are insufficient to assure the presence of the child at later proceedings, the court may require the posting of bail in accordance with Chapter 6 of this Title.
- C. If the court finds that release under neither Paragraph A or B of this Article is appropriate, it may authorize the continued custody of a child pending a hearing in accordance with Chapter 5 of this Title.
- D. If custody is continued, an appropriate representative of the arresting agency shall be responsible for transporting the child to the adjudication or dispositional hearing, or both, and transporting the child back to the juvenile detention center or to such state or local facility as determined by the court through its order or judgment or disposition.

Credits
Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 8, eff. Jan. 1, 1992. Amended by Acts 2019, No. 147, § 1.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 819

Continued custody hearing; time limitations

If a child is not released to the care of his parents, the court shall set and hold a hearing within three days after the child's entry into the juvenile detention center or shelter care facility. The three-day period includes any day that is included as a legal holiday under Article 114. When the last day of the three-day period is a legal holiday, the hearing shall be set and held on the next business day that is not a legal holiday. If the hearing is not held, the child shall be released unless the hearing is continued at the request of the child.

Credits

Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 8, eff. Jan. 1, 1992. Amended by Acts 1993, No. 634, § 1, eff. June 15, 1993; Acts 2019, No. 310, § 1.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 823

Right to bail or other security for release

A. Except as provided for in Paragraph C of this Article, upon application by the child, parent, guardian, or legal custodian, a child shall have a right to bail for release from custody prior to adjudication by the deposit of a bond or other security as determined by the court and upon agreeing to any other reasonable conditions found necessary to insure appearance of the child for adjudication.

B. In any case when the child has appeared as ordered and otherwise met the conditions of the bail, the bail shall not be used to satisfy fines and costs except as specified by this Chapter or unless agreed to by the person who executed the bail.

C. A child charged with the commission of a delinquent act which would otherwise be deemed a capital offense under Title 14 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 shall not be admitted to bail if the state shows that the proof is evident and the presumption great that the child is guilty of the capital offense. The court shall hold a contradictory hearing to resolve the child's application for bail in these circumstances.

Credits
Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 8, eff. Jan. 1, 1992.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 826

Conditions of release

A. A condition of every type of bail authorized in Article 825, and the only condition for which a security on the bail bond may be subject to forfeiture, is that the released child appear at any place and upon any date to which the proceeding is transferred or continued.

B. Every bail order shall also contain the condition that the released child not commit any further delinquent acts while at liberty on such bail bond or security deposit.

C. The court may also impose as a condition of release:

(1) That the child regularly attend school.

(2) That the child voluntarily participate in a pretrial drug testing program which meets the requirements of Article 336 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

(3) Any other condition of release that is reasonably related to assuring the child's appearance before the court.

D. A violation of any condition by the child or his parents, guardian, or legal custodian shall be considered as a constructive contempt of court.

Credits

Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 8, eff. Jan. 1, 1992. Amended by Acts 1995, No. 1158, § 1.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 843

Time for filing of petition; child in custody

- A. If a child is continued in custody prior to adjudication, the delinquency petition shall be filed within forty-eight hours of the hearing to determine continued custody.
- B. If no petition is filed within the applicable time period, the child shall be released.

Credits

Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 8, eff. Jan. 1, 1992.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 856

Answer to petition

- A. After the child has been advised pursuant to Article 855, the court shall inquire how the child responds. The child may:
- (1) Deny the allegations of the petition, in which case the court shall set the matter for an adjudication hearing.
 - (2) Deny the allegations of the petition and contest the request for adjudication due to insanity as defined in this Title, in which case the court shall not adjudicate the child without a hearing, at which time the child has the burden of establishing this defense.
 - (3) Admit the allegations of the petition, in which case the court shall further inquire to determine whether there is a factual basis for adjudication. If so, the court may then adjudicate the child delinquent.
 - (4) With the court's permission, enter a response of nolo contendere. If, in its discretion, the court accepts such response, the court shall further inquire to determine whether there is a factual basis for adjudication, and it may then adjudicate the child delinquent.
- B. A child shall plead when called upon to answer. If he stands mute, refuses to plead, or pleads evasively, a denial of the petition shall be entered of record.

Credits
Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 8, eff. Jan. 1, 1992.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 865

Preadjudication requests for relief; general provisions

A. All motions or other requests for relief prior to the adjudication hearing shall be made by written motion filed within fifteen days after the child or his counsel has appeared to answer the petition. In the interest of justice, the court may allow additional time within which to make or file such motions or may permit such requests to be made by oral motion.

B. The motion shall state with particularity the grounds therefor and shall set forth the relief sought.

C. A motion may be granted without a contradictory hearing when mover is clearly entitled thereto without supporting proof. A motion shall not be denied without a contradictory hearing unless, assuming the facts alleged to be true, mover is not entitled to relief.

Credits

Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 8, eff. Jan. 1, 1992.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 866

Discovery

Discovery shall be as provided in the Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure.

Credits

Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 8, eff. Jan. 1, 1992.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 877

Adjudication hearing; time limitations

- A. When the child is charged with a crime of violence as defined in R.S. 14:2(B) and the child is continued in custody pursuant to Chapter 5 of this Title, the adjudication hearing shall commence within sixty days of the appearance to answer the petition. In all other cases, if the child is continued in custody pursuant to Chapter 5 of this Title, the adjudication hearing shall commence within thirty days of the appearance to answer the petition.
- B. If the child is not continued in custody, the adjudication hearing shall commence within ninety days of the appearance to answer the petition.
- C. If the hearing has not been commenced timely, upon motion of the child, the court shall release a child continued in custody and shall dismiss the petition.
- D. For good cause, the court may extend such period.

Credits

Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 8, eff. Jan. 1, 1992. Amended by Acts 2012, No. 124, § 1, eff. May 14, 2012.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 882

Adjudication by the court

The adjudication hearing shall be held before the court without a jury.

Credits

Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 8, eff. Jan. 1, 1992.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 901

Disposition guidelines; generally

A. Except as provided in Article 897.1, in considering dispositional options, the court shall not remove a child from the custody of his parents unless his welfare or the safety and protection of the public cannot, in the opinion of the court, be adequately safeguarded without such removal.

B. Except as provided in Article 897.1, the court should impose the least restrictive disposition authorized by Articles 897 through 900 of this Title which the court finds is consistent with the circumstances of the case, the needs of the child, and the best interest of society.

C. Except as provided in Article 897.1, commitment of the child to the custody of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections may be appropriate if any of the following exists:

- (1) There is an undue risk that during the period of a suspended commitment or probation the child will commit another crime.
- (2) The child is in need of correctional treatment or a custodial environment that can be provided most effectively by his commitment.
- (3) A lesser disposition will deprecate the seriousness of the child's delinquent act.
- (4) The delinquent act involved the illegal carrying, use, or possession of a firearm.

D. Except as provided in Article 897.1, the following grounds, while not controlling the discretion of the court, shall be accorded weight in its determination of suspension of the disposition or probation:

- (1) The child's delinquent conduct neither caused nor threatened serious harm.
- (2) The child did not contemplate that his delinquent conduct would cause or threaten serious harm.
- (3) The child acted under strong provocation.
- (4) There were substantial grounds tending to excuse or justify the child's delinquent conduct, though failing to establish a defense.
- (5) The victim of the child's delinquent conduct induced or facilitated its commission.
- (6) The child or his family has compensated or will compensate the victim of his delinquent conduct for the damage or injury that the victim sustained.
- (7) The child has no history of prior delinquency or has led a law-abiding life for a substantial period of time before the commission of the instant delinquent act.
- (8) The child's delinquent conduct was the result of circumstances unlikely to recur.
- (9) The character and attitudes of the child indicate that he is unlikely to commit another delinquent act or crime.
- (10) The child is particularly likely to respond affirmatively to probationary treatment.
- (11) The commitment of the child would entail excessive hardship to himself or his family.

E. State agencies shall fully cooperate with any court which has authority with respect to the placement of a child in foster care for the purpose of locating a parent of the child. Such cooperation shall include making available all information obtained from the Federal Parent Locator Service.

F. The court shall notify the child in writing of the expungement and sealing procedures set forth in Article 917 et seq.

G. Repealed by Acts 2018, No. 467, § 3.

Credits

Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 8, eff. Jan. 1, 1992. Amended by Acts 1993, No. 430, § 2; Acts 1993, No. 634, § 1, eff. June 15, 1993; Acts 2004, No. 484, § 1; Acts 2007, No. 334, § 1; Acts 2015, No. 184, § 8; Acts 2017, No. 362, § 1; Acts 2018, No. 467, § 2.

F.I.N.S.

FAMILIES IN NEED OF SERVICES

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 726

Purpose

The purpose of this Title is to define self-destructive behaviors by the child and conduct by other family members which contribute to the child's harm and which warrant court intervention in the family's life so that appropriate services to remedy the family's dysfunction can be secured; to secure the effectiveness of the court's intervention by explicitly confirming its duty to obtain the cooperation and coordination of all public institutions or agencies having responsibility to supply services to any member of the family referred to the court; to establish a family service plan binding upon all family members and the appropriate service providers; and to protect the integrity of the family by authorizing adjudication and the imposition of a dispositional judgment requiring participation in a plan of services only after all available voluntary alternatives have been exhausted.

Credits

Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 7, eff. July 1, 1992, in parishes of Caddo, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, and Orleans, and otherwise effective July 1, 1993.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 728

Definitions

As used in this Title:

- (1) “Caretaker” means any person providing a residence for the child or any person legally obligated to provide or secure adequate care for the child, including a parent, tutor, guardian, or legal custodian.
- (2) “Child” means a person under eighteen years of age who, prior to proceedings under this Title, has not been judicially emancipated or emancipated by marriage.
- (3) “Runaway” means the continued absence of the child from the home of his caretaker without the caretaker's consent.
- (3.1) Repealed by Acts 2004, No. 484, § 3.
- (4) “Sexually exploited child” means any person under the age of eighteen who has been subject to sexual exploitation because the person either:
 - (a) Is a victim of trafficking of children for sexual purposes under R.S. 14:46.3.
 - (b) Is a victim of child sex trafficking under 18 U.S.C. 1591.
- (5) “Truant” means the repeated or habitual unauthorized absence or tardiness of a child from school pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 17:233 by a child who is subject to the compulsory attendance laws of this state.
- (6) “Ungovernable” means the child's habitual disregard of the lawful and reasonable demands of his caretakers and that the child is beyond their control.

Credits

Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 7, eff. July 1, 1992, in parishes of Caddo, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, and Orleans, and otherwise effective July 1, 1993. Amended by Acts 1992, No. 705, § 1, eff. July 6, 1992; Acts 1999, No. 1313, § 1; Acts 2009, No. 305, § 3; Acts 2013, No. 429, § 3, eff. June 24, 2013; Acts 2017, No. 362, § 1.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 730

Grounds

Allegations that a family is in need of services must assert whether the child is currently under the supervision of any state or local entity including, but not limited to, the Department of Children and Family Services or the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, youth services, the office of juvenile justice, and assert one or more of the following grounds:

- (1) That a child is truant or has willfully and repeatedly violated lawful school rules.
- (2) That a child is ungovernable.
- (3) That a child is a runaway.
- (4) That a child has repeatedly possessed or consumed intoxicating beverages, or that he has misrepresented or deceived his age for the purpose of purchasing or receiving such beverages from any person, or has repeatedly loitered around any place where such beverages are the principal commodities sold or handled.
- (5) That a child has committed an offense applicable only to children.
- (6) That a child under ten years of age has committed any act which if committed by an adult would be a crime under any federal, state, or local law.
- (7) That a caretaker has caused, encouraged, or contributed to the child's behaviors enumerated in this Article or to the commission of delinquent acts as defined in Title VIII.
- (8) That, after notice, a caretaker has willfully failed to attend a meeting with the child's teacher, school principal, or other appropriate school employee to discuss the child's truancy, the child's repeated violation of school rules, or other serious educational problems of the child.
- (9) That a child has been found incompetent to proceed with a delinquency matter under Article 832 et seq.
- (10) Repealed by Acts 2012, No. 730, § 2.
- (11) A child found to have engaged in cyberbullying.

Credits

Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 7, eff. July 1, 1992, in parishes of Caddo, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, and Orleans, and otherwise effective July 1, 1993. Amended by Acts 1994, 3rd Ex.Sess., No. 45, § 3; Acts 1995, No. 444, § 1, eff. June 17, 1995; Acts 1999, No. 784, § 1; Acts 2004, No. 485, § 1, eff. Jan. 1, 2005; Acts 2010, No. 989, § 2; Acts 2012, No. 660, § 1.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 743

Mandatory conference

- A. Except in emergencies or where the court determines it to be inappropriate, the court, its officer, or any person it designates shall convene a conference to be attended by the child, his parents or other legal custodian, and representatives of any public institution or agency having legal responsibility or discretionary ability to supply services to the family, which according to the petition are needed.

- B. This conference may be held at any time before or after a petition is filed but shall be held before any appearance to answer is made.

Credits
Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 7, eff. July 1, 1992, in parishes of Caddo, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, and Orleans, and otherwise effective July 1, 1993.

THE HARBOR

THE HARBOR IS A RESOURCE CENTER DESIGNED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY. THE HARBOR HOUSES VARIOUS AGENCIES AT ONE LOCATION AND PROVIDES THE PUBLIC WITH ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, PARENTING EDUCATION, CHILD ADVOCACY SERVICES, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNSELING AND CURRENT VOLUNTEERS FOR YOUTH JUSTICE PROGRAMMING.

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LSA-Ch.C. Art. 746

Authority to file petition

If there are reasonable grounds to believe that the family is in need of services, a family in need of services proceeding shall be commenced by a petition filed by the district attorney or any other attorney authorized by the court.

Credits
Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 7, eff. July 1, 1992, in parishes of Caddo, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, and Orleans, and otherwise effective July 1, 1993. Amended by Acts 1999, No. 1313, § 1.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 759

Answer to petition

After the child and his caretaker have been advised pursuant to Article 740, the court shall determine whether each admits or denies the allegations of the petition.

(1) If either the caretaker or child denies the allegations, the court shall set the matter for adjudication.

(2) If both the child and the caretaker admit that the allegations of the petition are true or stipulate that the family is in need of services, the court shall determine whether there is a factual basis for adjudication and if the child and caretaker consent to adjudication. If so, the court may accept a consent judgment and order a predisposition investigation.

Credits

Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 7.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 769

Adjudication by the court

The adjudication hearing shall be held before the court without a jury.

Credits

Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 7, eff. July 1, 1992, in parishes of Caddo, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, and Orleans, and otherwise effective July 1, 1993.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 770

Burden of proof

The petitioner shall prove the allegations of the petition by a preponderance of evidence.

Credits

Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 7, eff. July 1, 1992, in parishes of Caddo, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, and Orleans, and otherwise effective July 1, 1993.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 779

Dispositional alternatives

A. In any case in which the family has been adjudicated to be in need of services, the court may impose the following orders directly affecting any child of the family:

- (1) Order the child to submit to counseling or to psychiatric or psychological examination or treatment.
- (2) Order the child to cooperate in accepting particular services from any public institution or agency or from any private institution or agency willing and able to provide him with needed services.
- (3) Place the child in the custody of a caretaker or other suitable person on such terms and conditions as deemed in the best interests of the child and the public.
- (4) Place the child on probation on such terms and conditions as deemed in the best interests of the child and the public.
- (5) Assign the child to the custody of a private or public institution or agency, except that the child shall not be placed in a correctional facility designed and operated exclusively for delinquent children, nor shall such facility accept the child.
- (6) Make such other disposition or combination of the above dispositions as the court deems to be in the best interests of the child and the public.

B. In any case in which the family has been adjudicated to be in need of services, the court may impose any of the following orders directly affecting a caretaker:

- (1) Order the caretaker to submit to counseling or to psychiatric or psychological examination or treatment.
- (2) Order the caretaker to cooperate in accepting particular services from any public institution or agency or from any private institution or agency willing and able to provide him with needed services.
- (3) Order the caretaker to cooperate in connection with any part of the disposition order directly affecting the child.
- (4) Impose any other conditions reasonably related to improving the family relationship.
- (5) Order the caretaker to perform court-approved community service activities. If feasible, the court-approved community service activities shall be conducted by the caretaker and child together.

C. In any case in which the family has been adjudicated to be in need of services, the court may order any public institution or agency and its representatives to:

- (1) Provide any services specified in its order as necessary to improve the family relationships or reunite the family in the best interests of the child, provided only that such services are available within the agency or institution.
- (2) Report at least once every six months in writing concerning the progress of the family in receiving and accepting the services ordered.

Credits

Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 7, eff. July 1, 1992, in parishes of Caddo, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, and Orleans, and otherwise effective July 1, 1993. Amended by Acts 1995, No. 1095, § 3; Acts 2010, No. 314, § 1.

CHILD IN NEED OF CARE
"CINC"

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 606

Grounds; child in need of care

A. Allegations that a child is in need of care shall assert one or more of the following grounds:

(1) The child is the victim of abuse perpetrated, aided, or tolerated by the parent or caretaker, by a person who maintains an interpersonal dating or engagement relationship with the parent or caretaker, or by a person living in the same residence with the parent or caretaker as a spouse whether married or not, and his welfare is seriously endangered if he is left within the custody or control of that parent or caretaker.

(2) The child is a victim of neglect.

(3) The child is without necessary food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or supervision because of the disappearance or prolonged absence of his parent or when, for any other reason, the child is placed at substantial risk of imminent harm because of the continuing absence of the parent.

(4) As a result of a criminal prosecution, the parent has been convicted of a crime against the child who is the subject of this proceeding, or against another child of the parent, and the parent is now unable to retain custody or control or the child's welfare is otherwise endangered if left within the parent's custody or control.

(5) The conduct of the parent, either as principal or accessory, constitutes a crime against the child or against any other child.

(6) to (8) Repealed by Acts 2021, No. 158, § 7.

B. A child whose parent is unable to provide basic support, supervision, treatment, or services due to inadequate financial resources shall not, for that reason alone, be determined to be a child in need of care.

C. A diagnosis of factitious disorder imposed on another, formerly known as “Munchausen syndrome by proxy”, shall not constitute grounds, either entirely or partially, for a determination that a child is in need of care unless that diagnosis is made in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 37:1745.2.

Credits

Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 6, eff. Jan. 1, 1992. Amended by Acts 1992, No. 705, § 1, eff. July 6, 1992; Acts 1995, No. 1095, § 2; Acts 1999, No. 1178, § 1, eff. July 9, 1999; Acts 2012, No. 446, § 6; Acts 2012, No. 730, § 1; Acts 2014, No. 564, § 8; Acts 2017, No. 376, § 1; Acts 2018, No. 193, § 2; Acts 2018, No. 458, § 2.

NOVEMBER 2025 SHREVEPORT REGION STATS

Children in Foster Care

565



Age Group:	00-02	175
	03-05	87
	06-08	90
	09-11	82
	12-14	67
	15-17	62

African American: 287

Caucasian: 237

Hispanic: 11

Other: 41



Total: 262
General: 153
Child Specific: 86

** 136 children in non certified homes

• Siblings Group:

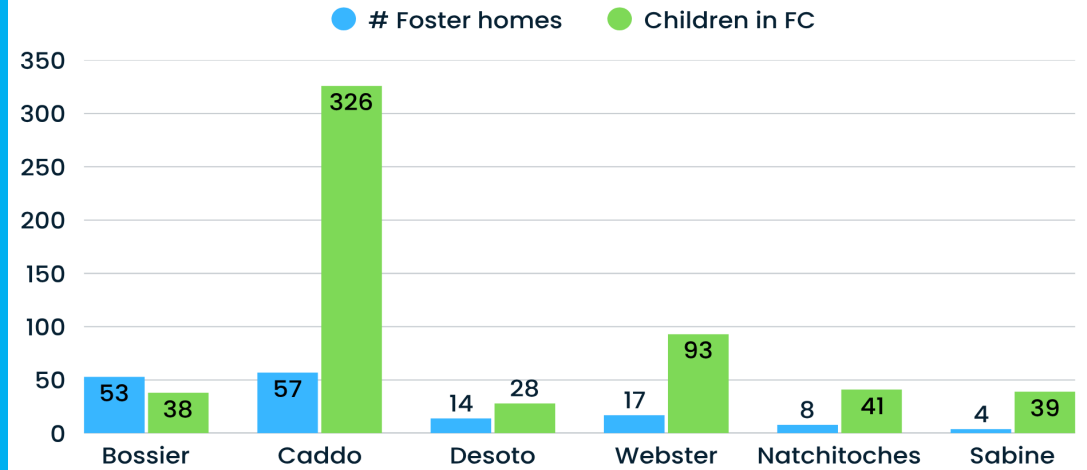
#siblings	Amount
one	201
two	71
three	37
four	12
five	6
six+	5



*** As of 11/17/2025

Caddo, Bossier, Webster, Desoto, Red River, Natchitoches, Claiborne, Jackson, Sabine, Bienville

SHREVEPORT CURRENT FOSTER HOMES VS. CHILDREN IN CARE



AS OF 11/17/2025

Who will you encounter in a typical Child in Need of Care case?

- The State of Louisiana; either the District Attorney or an attorney from the Department of Children and Family Services ("DCFS"); the State is a party to the proceedings
- The parents of the child and their respective counsels; the parents are each a party to the proceedings
- The child and their counsel; the child is a party to the proceedings
 - The child is appointed counsel who is obligated to represent the child's wishes
- CASA- Court Appointed Special Advocate; trained volunteers appointed by the Court to advocate for the best interest of the child regarding the outcome and progress of the case. They have access to all information relating to the case and will provide the court with concerns and recommendations. However, CASA is not a party to the proceedings
- DCFS staff; Investigators for the initial reports of abuse or neglect and case workers responsible for creating and supervising the case plan intended to achieve permanency for the child.
- Foster Parent; a caretaker of the child when custody has been temporarily removed from the parents. Foster Parents are not a party to the proceedings; however, they are statutorily afforded certain rights during the proceedings

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 631

Authority to file petition; custody

A. A child in need of care proceeding shall be commenced by petition filed by the district attorney. The Department of Children and Family Services, when authorized by the court, may file a petition if there are reasonable grounds to believe that the child is a child in need of care.

B. At any time prior to adjudication, any person, including a relative of the child, may petition the court for the provisional or permanent legal custody of the child.

Credits

Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 6, eff. Jan. 1, 1992. Amended by Acts 1992, No. 705, § 1, eff. July 6, 1992; Acts 1999, No. 1317, § 2; Acts 2010, No. 462, § 1, eff. June 22, 2010; Acts 2014, No. 354, § 1.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 619

Instant custody orders; instant safety plan orders

- A. (1) **A peace officer, district attorney, or employee of the local child protection unit of the department** may file a verified complaint alleging facts showing that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the child is in need of care and that emergency removal or the implementation of a safety plan is necessary to secure the child's health, welfare, and safety.
- (2) After the complaint has been filed, the parent is without authority to place the child with any individual or institution except the department until legal custody is returned to the parent or the safety plan is terminated.
- B. (1) If removal of the child is requested, the court shall immediately determine whether reasonable efforts, as defined by Article 603, have been made by the department to prevent or eliminate the need for the child's removal. In making the determination, the court shall consider all of the following:
- (a) Whether the department has requested a temporary restraining order pursuant to Article 617.
 - (b) Whether the department has requested a protective order pursuant to Article 618.
 - (c) Whether the department has requested an instant safety plan order pursuant to this Article.
 - (d) Any services or support offered or attempted prior to the request for an instant order to control the threat of danger or substitute for diminished or absent caretaker protective capacity.
- (2) In making and determining reasonable efforts, the child's health, welfare, and safety shall be the paramount concern.
- (3) Even if the department's efforts have not been reasonable, the court may authorize the removal of the child if the court determines that removal is necessary to secure the safety of the child and that additional efforts would not keep the child safe from identified threats of danger.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 619 (Continued)

Instanter custody orders; instanter safety plan orders

C. (1) Upon presentation of the verified complaint, the court shall immediately determine whether emergency removal or the issuance of an instanter safety plan order is necessary to secure the child's health, welfare, and safety.

(2) If the court finds that continuation in the home would be contrary to the health, welfare, and safety of the child, the court shall immediately issue a written instanter order directing that the child be placed in the provisional custody of a suitable relative or other suitable individual capable of protecting the health, welfare, and safety of the child or that the child be taken into the custody of the state. The order shall contain written findings of fact supporting the necessity for the child's removal. If the child has been ordered into the custody of a suitable relative or other suitable individual, a safety plan shall be made an order of the court and shall direct the provisional custodian to adhere to the conditions of the safety plan. The safety plan shall set forth conditions of contact with parents or other suitable individuals.

(3) If, upon request by the state, the court determines that with the issuance of a safety plan order, the child's health, welfare, and safety can be secured without removal, the court shall immediately issue a written instanter safety plan order directing compliance with the terms of the safety plan. The order shall contain written findings of fact supporting the necessity for the safety plan. The safety plan shall set forth conditions as determined by or agreed upon by the state as necessary for the child's health, welfare, and safety while remaining in the home.

(4) If the court determines that emergency removal or the issuance of a safety plan order is not necessary to secure the child's health, welfare, and safety, the court shall issue a written order denying the request for custody or for the implementation of a safety plan.

D. An instanter order shall be executed by either an employee of the local child protection unit or any peace officer having territorial jurisdiction over the child.

E. Any peace officer having territorial jurisdiction over the child is authorized to serve a summons upon a parent or caretaker, commanding him to appear at court for a continued custody or continued safety plan hearing. The summons shall expressly notify the parent or caretaker that the court may issue a binding order in his absence if he fails to appear. A copy of the summons shall be filed in the record as proof of service. An employee of the local child protection unit shall provide written notice to the parents or caretaker of the date, time, and location of the continued custody or continued safety plan hearing.

Credits

Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 6, eff. Jan. 1, 1992. Amended by Acts 1993, No. 634, § 1, eff. June 15, 1993; Acts 1995, No. 1095, § 2; Acts 1999, No. 449, § 1, eff. July 1, 1999; Acts 1999, No. 1215, § 1, eff. July 9, 1999; Acts 2001, No. 567, § 1; Acts 2005, No. 148, § 1; Acts 2006, No. 278, § 1; Acts 2014, No. 486, § 1; Acts 2022, No. 272, § 1.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 620

Oral instant order

- A. In exceptional circumstances, the facts supporting the issuance of an instant order and the exceptional circumstances may be relayed orally, including telephonically, to the judge, and the order directing that a child be taken into custody or, upon request by the state, that an instant safety plan order be implemented may be issued orally.
- B. An affidavit containing the information previously relayed orally, including telephonically, shall be filed with the clerk of the court within twenty-four hours, and a written order shall be issued. The written order shall include the court's findings of fact supporting the necessity for the child's removal or the implementation of an instant safety plan order and, if the child has been removed, shall determine the child's custodian in accordance with Article 619.
- C. The affidavit filed after the child has been placed shall indicate whether the child was released to the child's parents or remains removed.
- D. The department shall promptly notify the parents or caretaker of the nature of the allegations and, if the child is not released, of the time and place of the continued custody hearing.
- E. If the court ordered the implementation of a safety plan, the department shall promptly notify the parents or caretaker of the nature of the allegations, the conditions of the safety plan, and the time and place of a continued safety plan order hearing.

Credits

Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 6, eff. Jan. 1, 1992. Amended by Acts 1993, No. 634, § 1, eff. June 15, 1993; Acts 2001, No. 567, § 1; Acts 2005, No. 148, § 1; Acts 2006, No. 278, § 1; Acts 2014, No. 486, § 1; Acts 2022, No. 272, § 1.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 624

Continued custody hearing; continued safety plan hearing; federal Indian Child Welfare Act

A. If the court issues an order pursuant to Article 619 or 620, a hearing shall be held by the court within three days after the issuance of the order. An order setting the hearing shall provide for appointment of counsel for the child and notice to the entity approved to represent children. If an instanter safety plan order has been ordered, a hearing shall be held by the court within three days from the issuance of the safety plan order. The parents' signature on the safety plan shall constitute evidence of their agreement with the plan. The continued safety plan hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the procedural and evidentiary rules applicable to continued custody hearings.

B. After notice to all parties and when a child is in foster care, to any foster parent, pre-adoptive parent, and relative providing care, and upon a showing of good cause, the court may grant, deny, or condition a requested continuance of the proceeding in accordance with the best interests of the child. The hearing may be continued for up to three additional days. If a continuance is granted, the court shall issue a written order identifying the mover and reciting the particular facts justifying the continuance.

C. (1) If it appears from the record that, after diligent efforts by the department, the parent cannot be found or has been served a summons or notified by the department to appear at the continued custody or continued safety plan hearing and fails to appear at the hearing, then the hearing may be held in the parent's absence.

(2) If a foster parent, pre-adoptive parent, adoptive parent, or relative providing care for the child fails to appear at the hearing, the department shall report to the court whether notice was given, or, if not, what diligent efforts were made to locate and notify the absent person. The court may permit the hearing to be held in the person's absence.

D. At the commencement of the hearing, on the record, the court shall ask each person before the court whether he knows or has reason to know that the child is an Indian child. Each person before the court shall be instructed to inform the court if he subsequently discovers information indicating that the child is an Indian child.

E. At this hearing, the state has the burden of proving the existence of a ground for continued custody or the continued implementation of a safety plan pursuant to Article 626.

F. The child and the child's parents may introduce evidence, call witnesses, be heard on their own behalf, and cross-examine witnesses called by the state.

G. Hearsay evidence shall be admissible at this hearing.

H. A suitable relative or other suitable individual who seeks to become the custodian of the child shall provide evidence of a willingness and ability to provide a stable and safe environment for the child and to protect the health, welfare, and safety of the child pending an adjudication hearing. The suitable relative or other suitable individual shall affirm a continued acceptance of the terms of the safety plan.

Credits

Added by [Acts 1991, No. 235, § 6, eff. Jan. 1, 1992](#). Amended by [Acts 1993, No. 634, § 1, eff. June 15, 1993](#); [Acts 1999, No. 449, § 1, eff. July 1, 1999](#); [Acts 1999, No. 1215, § 1, eff. July 9, 1999](#); [Acts 2001, No. 567, § 1](#); [Acts 2005, No. 148, § 1](#); [Acts 2006, No. 278, § 1](#); [Acts 2007, No. 334, § 1](#); [Acts 2014, No. 354, § 1](#); [Acts 2014, No. 486, § 1](#); [Acts 2018, No. 296, § 1](#); [Acts 2022, No. 272, § 1](#).

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 631

Authority to file petition; custody

- A. A child in need of care proceeding shall be commenced by petition filed by the district attorney. The Department of Children and Family Services, when authorized by the court, may file a petition if there are reasonable grounds to believe that the child is a child in need of care.
- B. At any time prior to adjudication, any person, including a relative of the child, may petition the court for the provisional or permanent legal custody of the child.

Credits
Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 6, eff. Jan. 1, 1992. Amended by Acts 1992, No. 705, § 1, eff. July 6, 1992; Acts 1999, No. 1317, § 2; Acts 2010, No. 462, § 1, eff. June 22, 2010; Acts 2014, No. 354, § 1.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 649

Answer to petition; objection by child

- A. After the parent has been advised of his rights, and if the parent has not stipulated pursuant to Article 647, the court shall determine whether the parent admits or denies the allegations of the petition.
- (1) If the parent denies the allegations of the petition, the court shall set the matter for adjudication.
 - (2) If the parent admits the allegations of the petition, the court shall determine whether there is a factual basis for adjudication and whether the parent consents to adjudication.
- B. A child may object, in writing or in open court, to an answer of his parent, which objection shall be entered into the minutes of the court.

Credits

Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 6, eff. Jan. 1, 1992. Amended by Acts 1999, No. 449, § 1, eff. July 1, 1999.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 650

Intervention

- A. For good cause shown, the court may allow any family member or interested person to intervene to facilitate the placement of the child and to ensure that the best interests of the child are protected.
- B. The court may limit the nature and extent of the intervenor's participation in the adjudication hearing.
- C. For the purposes of this Article, “interested person” means any person with whom the child enjoys a close, established, significant relationship, yet not a blood relative, including a neighbor, godparent, teacher, or close friend of the parent.

Credits
Added by Acts 2023, No. 226, § 1.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 659

Time for adjudication hearing

- A. If the child is in continued custody pursuant to Article 627, the adjudication hearing shall commence within forty-five days of the filing of the petition. If the child is not continued in custody, the adjudication hearing shall commence within one hundred five days of the filing of the petition.
- B. After notice to the opposing party and upon a showing of good cause, the court may grant, deny, or condition a requested continuance of the proceeding in extraordinary circumstances. The hearing may be continued for up to five additional days. If a continuance is granted, the court shall issue a written order identifying the mover and reciting the particular facts justifying the continuance.
- C. If the hearing has not been commenced timely, upon motion of the child, the court shall release a child continued in custody and may dismiss the petition.

Credits

Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 6, eff. Jan. 1, 1992. Amended by Acts 1992, No. 705, § 1, eff. July 6, 1992; Acts 1999, No. 449, § 1, eff. July 1, 1999.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 666

Adjudication order

- A. Following the adjudication hearing, the court shall immediately declare whether the evidence warrants a child in need of care adjudication. In exceptional circumstances, the court may take the matter under advisement for a period not to exceed ten days.
- B. If the evidence demonstrates that the child's family is in need of services, the court may adjudicate the child's family to be in need of services and proceed to a disposition in accordance with Chapters 10 and 12 of Title VII.
- C. If the court finds that the evidence does not warrant an adjudication that either the child is in need of care or the family is in need of services, it shall dismiss the petition.

Credits
Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 6, eff. Jan. 1, 1992. Amended by Acts 1999, No. 449, § 1, eff. July 1, 1999; Acts 1999, No. 1317, § 2; Acts 2004, No. 321, § 1.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 681

Dispositional alternatives

A. In a case in which a child has been adjudicated to be in need of care, the health, welfare, and safety of the child shall be the paramount concern. If the child can safely remain in or return to the custody of the parent, the court shall place the child in the custody of the parent under terms and conditions deemed to be in the best interest of the child, including but not limited to the issuance of a protective order pursuant to Article 618 or a safety plan order. If the child cannot safely remain in or return to the custody of the parent, the court may do any of the following:

- (1) Order the child into the legal custody of a suitable relative or other suitable individual on terms and conditions deemed to be in the best interest of the child, including but not limited to the issuance of a protective order pursuant to Article 618.
- (2) Place the child in the custody of a private or public institution or agency.
- (3) Commit a child found to have a mental illness to a public or private institution for persons with mental illness.
- (4) Grant guardianship of the child to a nonparent.
- (5) Make such other disposition or combination of the above dispositions as the court deems to be in the best interest of the child.

B. A child in need of care shall not be committed to the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, nor shall such department accept a child in need of care.

Credits
Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 6, eff. Jan. 1, 1992. Amended by Acts 1999, No. 449, § 1, eff. July 1, 1999; Acts 2011, No. 128, § 1; Acts 2014, No. 811, § 33, eff. June 23, 2014; Acts 2022, No. 272, § 1.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 686

Duration of disposition

A judgment of disposition shall remain in force only until a child reaches his eighteenth birthday. It may expire earlier by its own terms, if it is modified, or if it is vacated.

Credits

Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 6, eff. Jan. 1, 1992.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 692

Case review hearings

- A. A review hearing shall be conducted by the court or administrative review body three months after the disposition hearing if the child was removed prior to disposition or within six months after the disposition hearing if the child was removed at disposition, but in no case more than six months after removal of the child from his parent(s).
- B. Case reviews shall continue to be held at least once every six months thereafter until the child is permanently placed, or earlier upon the motion of a party for good cause shown or upon the court's own motion.

Credits
Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 6, eff. Jan. 1, 1992.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 714

Motion to modify judgment of disposition

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LSA-Ch.C. Art. 718

Purpose of guardianship

- A. The purpose of guardianship is to provide a permanent placement for children when the court has found that adoption is not in the children's best interest and the children cannot be safely reunified with their parents within a reasonable time; to encourage stability and permanence in the lives of children who have been adjudicated to be in need of care and have been removed from the custody of their parent; and to increase the opportunities for the prompt permanent placement of children, especially with relatives, without ongoing supervision by the department.
- B. This Chapter is intended to ensure that the fundamental needs of children are met and the constitutional rights of all parties are recognized and enforced.

Credits
Added by Acts 2011, No. 128, § 1. Amended by Acts 2024, No. 92, § 1.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 720

Motion for guardianship

- A. After a child has been adjudicated to be in need of care, a motion for guardianship may be filed by the department, parent, counsel for the child, or, when the guardian is deceased, an individual previously named as a successor guardian in a guardianship subsidy agreement with the department; or the department may submit a case plan along with the case review report to the court and all counsel of record recommending guardianship in accordance with Articles 674, 688, and 689.
- B. The motion, case review report, or case plan shall include all of the following:
- (1) The name and gender of the child, and the date and place of the child's birth.
 - (2) A description of the mental and physical health of the child.
 - (3) The current placement of the child and when it began.
 - (4) The name and address of the proposed guardian and any relationship to the child.
 - (5) The name and address of the parents of the child.
 - (6) A plain and concise statement of the facts on which the motion, case review report, or case plan for guardianship is sought; why neither adoption nor reunification with a parent is in the best interest of the child; and why the child cannot be safely reunified with the parent within a reasonable time. If a parent files the motion, any statement that the child cannot be safely reunified with the parent within a reasonable time shall not be deemed an admission for any purpose other than satisfying the motion.
- C. If any of the information required by Paragraph B of this Article is unknown, the motion, case review report, or case plan shall state that fact. In addition, if the location of either parent is unknown, the motion, case review report, or case plan shall disclose efforts to locate the parent.
- D. Unless not yet completed, the home study, as required by Article 721, shall be attached to the motion, case review report, or case plan. If not attached, the home study shall be submitted to the court as soon as it is completed.

Extended Foster Care
LSA-R.S. 46:288.3
Eligibility; notice

- A. The department may provide extended foster care services for a youth who satisfies one of the following conditions for eligibility:
- (1) Completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential.
 - (2) Enrolled in an institution that provides postsecondary or vocational education.
 - (3) Participating in a program or activity designed to promote employment or remove barriers to employment.
 - (4) Employed for at least eighty hours per month.
 - (5) Is incapable of doing any part of the activities in Paragraphs (1) through (4) of this Subsection due to a medical condition. A medical condition invoked pursuant to this Paragraph shall be documented and supported by regularly updated information in the youth's case plan.
- B. The department shall notify all foster children and their foster parents or other custodians in writing of the availability of these benefits and services upon the foster child's seventeenth birthday, and every ninety days thereafter until the child's eighteenth birthday, unless the foster child and foster parents or other custodians have already consented in writing to participation in this program.

Credits

Added by Acts 2019, No. 400, § 2, eff. June 19, 2019.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 1015

Grounds; termination of parental rights

The grounds for termination of parental rights are:

- (1) Conviction of murder of the child's other parent.
- (2) Unjustified intentional killing of the child's other parent.
- (3) Misconduct of the parent toward this child or any other child of the parent or any other child which constitutes extreme abuse, cruel and inhuman treatment, or grossly negligent behavior below a reasonable standard of human decency, including but not limited to the conviction, commission, aiding or abetting, attempting, conspiring, or soliciting to commit any of the following:
 - (a) Murder.
 - (b) Unjustified intentional killing.
 - (c) Aggravated crime against nature as defined by R.S. 14:89.1(A)(2).
 - (d) Rape.
 - (e) Sodomy.
 - (f) Torture.
 - (g) Starvation.
 - (h) A felony that has resulted in serious bodily injury.
 - (i) Abuse or neglect which is chronic, life-threatening, or results in gravely disabling physical or psychological injury or disfigurement.
 - (j) Abuse or neglect after the child is returned to the parent's care and custody while under department supervision, when the child had previously been removed for his safety from the parent pursuant to a disposition judgment in a child in need of care proceeding.
 - (k) The parent's parental rights to one or more of the child's siblings have been terminated due to neglect or abuse, prior attempts to rehabilitate the parent have been unsuccessful, and the court has determined pursuant to Article 672.1 that current attempts to reunite the family are not required.
 - (l) Sexual exploitation or abuse, which shall include but is not limited to acts which are prohibited by R.S. 14:43.1, 43.2, 46.3, 80, 81, 81.1, 81.2, 82.1(A)(2), 89, and 89.1.
 - (m) Human trafficking when sentenced pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 14:46.2(B)(2) or (3).

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 1015 (Continued)

Grounds; termination of parental rights

(4) Abandonment of the child by placing him in the physical custody of a nonparent, or the department, or by otherwise leaving him under circumstances demonstrating an intention to permanently avoid parental responsibility by any of the following:

(a) For a period of at least four months as of the time of the hearing, despite a diligent search, the whereabouts of the child's parent continue to be unknown.

(b) As of the time the petition is filed, the parent has failed to provide significant contributions to the child's care and support for any period of six consecutive months.

(c) As of the time the petition is filed, the parent has failed to maintain significant contact with the child by visiting him or communicating with him for any period of six consecutive months.

(5) Unless sooner permitted by the court, at least one year has elapsed since a child was removed from the parent's custody pursuant to a court order; there has been no substantial parental compliance with a case plan for services which has been previously filed by the department and approved by the court as necessary for the safe return of the child; and despite earlier intervention, there is no reasonable expectation of significant improvement in the parent's condition or conduct in the near future, considering the child's age and his need for a safe, stable, and permanent home.

(6) The child is in the custody of the department pursuant to a court order or placement by the parent; the parent has been convicted and sentenced to a period of incarceration of such duration that the parent will not be able to care for the child for an extended period of time, considering the child's age and his need for a safe, stable, and permanent home; and despite notice by the department, the parent has refused or failed to provide a reasonable plan for the appropriate care of the child other than foster care.

(7) The relinquishment of an infant pursuant to Chapter 13 of Title XI of this Code.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 1015 (Continued)

Grounds; termination of parental rights

(8) The child is in the custody of the department pursuant to a court order for at least one year, unless sooner permitted by the court, and the identity of the child's father remains unknown and all the following have occurred:

(a) In the course of investigating the case and providing services to the family, the department has been unable to learn the identity of the father.

(b) No party to the proceedings or the mother, if not a party, is able to provide a first and last name of a putative father or alias sufficient to provide a reasonable possibility of identification and location.

(c) The department has obtained all of the following:

(i) A certified copy of the child's birth certificate with no one indicated thereon as the father of the child, or the father listed has been determined not to be the biological father of the child.

(ii) A recent certificate from the putative father registry indicating that no person is listed or registered as the child's father.

(iii) A recent certificate from the clerk of court in the parish in which the child was born indicating that no acknowledgment with respect to this child has been recorded.

Credits

Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 10, eff. Jan. 1, 1992. Amended by Acts 1997, No. 256, § 1; Acts 1999, No. 449, § 1, eff. July 1, 1999; Acts 2000, 1st Ex.Sess., No. 109, § 1, eff. April 17, 2000; Acts 2001, No. 499, § 2; Acts 2003, No. 609, § 1; Acts 2003, No. 781, § 1; Acts 2012, No. 446, § 6; Acts 2012, No. 730, § 1; Acts 2014, No. 602, § 1, eff. June 12, 2014; Acts 2016, No. 608, § 1; Acts 2017, No. 239, § 1; Acts 2018, No. 206, § 6; Acts 2023, No. 271, § 1, eff. June 9, 2023.

LSA-Ch.C. Art. 1170

Types of adoption

A. This Title sets forth the exclusive procedures for adoption of children in Louisiana. There are three types of adoption of children in Louisiana:

- (1) Agency adoption.
- (2) Private adoption.
- (3) Intrafamily adoption.

B. The procedures governing each type of adoption are set forth in the following Articles.

Credits
Added by Acts 1991, No. 235, § 12, eff. Jan. 1, 1992. Amended by Acts 2024, No. 92, § 1.

Legislative Updates

- **House Bill 268:** Effective August 1, 2025
 - The Audrey Wascome Act: Changes all references of "Pornography involving juveniles" to "child sexual abuse materials" or "CSAM"; To better correspond to the nonconsensual and abusive nature of these related offenses
- **LA R.S. 15:589.1** Effective August 1, 2025
 - Handling of information; juvenile criminal conduct
 - Pertains to how information obtained by the LA Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information shall be handled and made available
 - Also requires an audit trail to maintain the integrity of the records and ensure accountability
- **Act 477/HB 617** Organization of DCFS Effective dates vary
 - 72 statutes affected
 - Relates to oversight of child protective services; human trafficking prevention, child support administration, prevention of child abuse and neglect, adoption and foster care services
- **Act 409/SB 41-** Child Welfare Effective August 1, 2025
 - 30 statutes affected
 - Early learning center/school licensing; child welfare investigations, liability, mandatory reporting requirements and procedures
- **Act267/HB 359** Human Trafficking Effective August 1, 2025
 - Procedures for helping survivors of Human Trafficking- establishes the Human Trafficking in Emergency Departments Task Force, create protocols, etc.