

Child Welfare Timeline and Key Federal Laws

(This is a summary of important concepts within the laws, not the full details.)

1874

The first child abuse case went to trial regarding Mary Ellen Wilson. This was due to the help of the founder of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). Later that year, the New York Society for the Prevention of the Cruelty to Children (SPCC) was formed which would investigate 300 cases of child abuse in 1875.



1899

First juvenile court was established in Chicago. It placed children in dependencies and delinquencies in orphanages and reform schools.

1854-1929

Orphan trains ran that would take orphaned children from different cities to the Midwest. The children would be “put up” on platforms to be adopted usually by farmers needing child labor. This is where the term “put up for adoption” comes from.

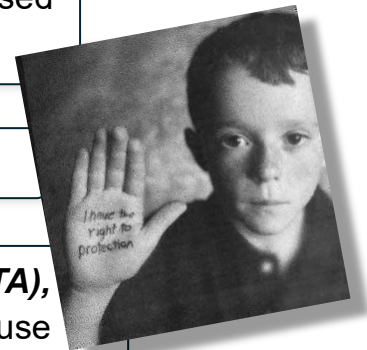


1938

Fair Labor and Standards Act was passed which was the first law that gave legal rights to children. It imposed restrictions on working hours and conditions.

1965

Mandatory reporting laws were in place in all states.



1974

Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), P.L. 93-247 Created the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect and earmarked federal funds for states to establish programs for child abuse and neglect victims. It required the states have child abuse and neglect reporting laws and investigate those reports.

1978

Indian Child Welfare Act, P.L. 95-608

Describes the rights of the Indian Child and Tribe regarding dependency cases and actions. **will be explained more in training*



1980

Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act, P.L. 96-272

Required "Reasonable Efforts" to prevent the need for removal and to make it possible for children to return home. Federal funding is tied to reasonable efforts. Required states to provide adoption subsidies for special needs adoptions.

1990

Child Protection and Family Violence Act, P.L. 101-630

Established federal requirements for reporting and investigating child abuse and neglect on tribal lands and authorized funding for child abuse prevention for tribes.

1994
&
1996

1994 - Multiethnic Placement Act, P.L. 103-382

1996 - Interethnic Placement Act, P.L. 104-188

MEPA and then its amendment IEPA sought to prevent discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in the placement of children and the section of foster and adoptive placements.



1997

Adoption and Safe Families Act, P.L. 105-89

Required permanency planning to begin as soon as child enters foster care. Requires court reviews every six months and permanency planning within 12 months.

1999

Foster Care Independence Act, P.L. 106-169

Set up Chafee Program to help children aging out of foster care to be provided independent living skills. Provides funding to youth ages 18-21 who aged out of foster care for assistance as well as room and board, and to be provided Medicaid. Also increased adoption subsidy.



2002

Promoting Safe and Stable Families Amendments of 2001, P.L. 107-133 Authorized a voucher program (Chafee) for education and training for youth that have aged out of foster care.



2006

Safe and Timely Interstate Placement of Foster Children Act, P.L. 109-239 Required states to have a plan for home-study requests from other states as well as established requirements for monitoring out of state placements. Required state courts to notify foster parents, pre-adoptive placements, and relative placements of certain court proceedings.

Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act, P.L. 109-248 Requirement for criminal and child abuse registry checks for prospective foster and adoptive parents.

Child and Family Improvement Act, P.L. 109-288 Requires monthly visits from case manager for children in foster care.

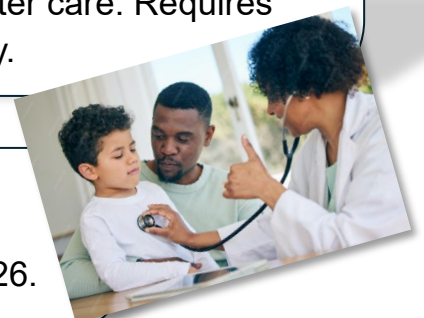


2008

Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, P.L. 110-351 Created guardianship payments and eligibility for Medicaid, required fingerprinting and child abuse registry checks for relative placements, amended Chafee services to include children adopted or gaining guardianship after age 16. Required reasonable efforts to keep siblings together. Required states to ensure coordination of health services for children in foster care. Required transition plans be made 90 days prior to children aging out of foster care. Requires case plan to include a plan for educational stability.

2010

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, P.L. 111-148 Extended Medicaid coverage to children who have aged out of foster care to age 26.



2011

Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act, P.L. 112-34 Required states to have a plan for monitoring and treatment of emotional trauma associated with child maltreatment and removal and for monitoring appropriate use of psychotropic medications. Required states to have a plan for reducing the length of time children under 5 are in care. Required states to meet educational stability plan at the time of each placement change. Requires a child in care who is 16 or older to get a free copy of credit report and be offered assistance regarding it.



2014

Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, P.L. 113-183 Required reporting for children who have runaway from foster care. Required states to develop reasonable and prudent parent standard, so children in foster care could participate in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities that are age and developmentally appropriate. Limited APPLA case plan to only be for children 16 and over. Allowed children age 14 and older to help develop their own case plan. Required children aging out of foster care to be given a copy of their birth certificate, ss card, health insurance info, medical records, and state ID.

2018

Family First Prevention Services Act, P.L. 115-123 Changed Chafee program to allow education and training vouchers to be available up through age 26 (but only for 5 years total). Emphasized prevention services and financially disincentivized the use of congregate care placements.



2025

Protecting America's Children by Strengthening Families Act, P.L. 118-258 Reauthorizes Title IV-B funding and has provisions to support kinship families and enhance collaboration between child welfare and juvenile justice programs.