

PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NOTICE 3558 OF 2025

MS ALEXANDRA ABRAHAMS, MP

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO INTRODUCE A PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL AND INVITATION FOR COMMENT ON THE DRAFT BILL, NAMELY THE CHILDREN'S AMENDMENT BILL, 2025

Ms Alexandra Abrahams, MP, acting in accordance with section 73(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 ("the Constitution"), intends to introduce The Children's Amendment Bill, 2025, in the National Assembly of Parliament. An explanatory summary of the draft Bill is hereby published in accordance with Rule 276(1)(c) of the Rules of the National Assembly.

Section 28(1)(d) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 ("the Constitution") affords all children the right to be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation. Section 28(2) of the Constitution also pronounces that a child's best interests are of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child. The Constitution further protects a child's right to life in terms of section 11. In addition, the Children's Act, 2005 (Act No. 38 of 2005) ("the Children's Act"), seeks to provide comprehensive protection for children.

However, in a country where the protection of children is of utmost importance, the proliferation of the unsafe abandonment of neonates (i.e children who are under 28 days old), is alarming and of pressing social concern. According to a 2018 study¹ conducted by the South African Medical Research Council, about 3 500 children survive abandonment each year and that for every child that was found alive, at least two were dead. The study further found that 65 percent of the abandoned children were newborns, while 90 percent were under the age of one. Neonates are found dumped in places like dumpsters, drains, toilets, open fields, on the side of the road and on doorsteps. The unsafe abandonment of neonates violates their right to life, and right to be free of maltreatment, neglect, abuse and degradation.

There are many reasons as to why children are abandoned. These, *inter alia*, include, but are not limited to, poverty, gender-based violence, teenage or unwanted pregnancy, lack of sufficient pregnancy counselling, child conceived as a result of rape, lack of access to family planning services like contraception, incest, failed illegal abortions, lack of family support and financial issues. Another cause of child abandonment is the fact that the current South African laws are reactive in nature in that while the laws punish the crime of child abandonment, they fail to provide safe alternatives to the act of unsafe abandonment of neonates either via 'baby savers' or 'baby safe havens'.

Baby savers and baby safe havens serve as a critical safety net which can save a neonate's life and allow for the dignified and safe relinquishment of a neonate. They offer a humane and

¹ The Borgen Project. (2020). *Abandoned Babies in South Africa*. [Online]. Available at: <https://borgenproject.org/abandoned-babies-in-south-africa/#:~:text=each%20garment%20sold,-.Abandoned%20Baby%20Rate%20in%20South%20Africa,30%20percent%20increase%20in%20orphans>

safe alternative to abandoning neonates in hazardous locations and thus upholds a child's right to life and protecting the child from maltreatment and neglect.

The Children's Amendment Bill, 2025 ("the draft Bill") thus seeks to amend the Children's Act so as to provide for the safe relinquishment of a neonate into a baby safe or with a baby safe haven. The draft Bill seeks to give legal recognition to 'baby savers' and 'baby safe havens' and to regulate such facilities. Furthermore, the draft Bill expressly excludes the safe relinquishment of a neonate at a baby saver or at a baby safe haven, from the definition of "abandoned child", thereby clarifying that such safe relinquishment does not constitute a crime. However, the Bill expressly states that the fact of a safe relinquishment of a neonate does not indemnify a person who committed an offence in respect of the neonate prior to the safe relinquishment. Allowing for the safe relinquishment of a neonate in a baby safe or with a baby safe haven will assist in the protection of children's rights as entrenched in the Constitution.

Interested parties and institutions are invited to submit written representations on the proposed content of the draft Bill to the Speaker of the National Assembly within 30 days of the publication of this notice. Representations can be delivered to the Speaker, New Assembly Building, Parliament Street, Cape Town; mailed to the Speaker at PO Box 15, Cape Town 8000; or e-mailed to speaker@parliament.gov.za and copied to legislation@da.org.za.

Copies of the draft Children's Amendment Bill, 2025 may, after introduction, be obtained from the Democratic Alliance by requesting a copy from legislation@da.org.za

SCHEDULE

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

CHILDREN'S AMENDMENT BILL, 2025

(As introduced in the National Assembly (proposed section 76); explanatory summary of Bill and prior notice of its introduction published in Government Gazette No. 43656 of 26 August 2020) (The English text is the official text of the Bill)

(MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT)

GENERAL EXPLANATORY NOTE:

[] Words in bold type in square brackets indicate omissions from existing enactments.

_____ Words underlined with a solid line indicate insertions in existing enactments.

BILL

To amend the Children's Act, 2005, so as to amend and insert certain definitions; to provide for children's right to privacy and protection of information; to further provide for the rights of unmarried fathers; to provide for the designation and functions for a Registrar of the National Child Protection Register; to further provide for the care of abandoned or orphaned children; to further provide for rules relating to care and protection proceedings; to further provide for medical testing of children in need of care and protection or adoption; to provide for additional matters relating to children in alternative care; to further provide for matters relating to adoption and inter-country adoption; to further provide for the hearing of child abduction matters; to further provide for matters relating to surrogate motherhood; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

BE IT ENACTED by the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, as follows:—

Amendment of section 1 of Act 38 of 2005, as amended by section 3 of Act 41 of 2007, section 48 of Act 7 of 2013, section 1 of Act 17 of 2016, section 1 of Act 18 of 2016 and section 1 of Act 17 of 2022

1. Section 1 of the Children's Act, 2005 (hereinafter referred to as the "principal Act"), is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for the definition of "abandoned" of the following definition:

“ **'abandoned child'** means a child who—

has been deserted by a parent, guardian or care-giver; for no apparent reason, had no contact with the parent, guardian or care-giver for a period of at least three months; or

has no knowledge as to the whereabouts of the parent, guardian or care-giver and such information cannot be ascertained by the relevant authorities, and includes a child relinquished or placed in a baby box;”;

(b) by the substitution for the definition of "adoption service" of the following definition:

“ **'adoption service'** includes—

(a) counselling of **[the] a** parent or guardian of the child and, where applicable, the child;

(b) an assessment of a child by an adoption social worker in terms of section 230(2);

(c) an assessment of a prospective adoptive parent by an adoption social worker in terms of section 231(2);

(d) the gathering of information for proposed adoptions as contemplated in section 237; **[and]**

(e) a report contemplated in section 239 (1) (b); and

(f) after-care provided to the adoptive family;”;

(c) by the substitution for the definition of “after-care” of the following definition:

“ ‘**after-care**’ means the supportive service provided by a social worker **[or]** a social **[service professional]** auxiliary worker or a social service practitioner responsible for adoption services, to monitor progress with regard to the child’s developmental adjustment as part of—

- (a) family preservation or reunification services;
- (b) adoption or placement in alternative care; or
- (c) discharge from alternative care;”;

(d) by the substitution for paragraph (a) in the definition of “care” of the following paragraph:

“(a) within available means, providing the child with—

- (i) a **[suitable]** place to live;
- (ii) living conditions that are conducive to the child’s health, well-being and development; and
- (iii) the necessary financial support;”;

(e) by the deletion of paragraph (e) in the definition of “care-giver”;

(f) by the deletion of the definition of “circumcision”;

(g) by the substitution for the definition of “clerk of the court” of the following definition:

“ ‘**clerk of the court** means clerk of the children’s court appointed or designated as such either in terms of section 67 of this Act or section 13 of the Magistrates’ Courts Act, 1944 (Act No. 32 of 1944);”;

(h) by the deletion of the definition of “divorce court”;

- (i) by the insertion after the definition of “family advocate” of the following definition:

“ **‘family counsellor’** means a family counsellor appointed in terms of the Mediation in Certain Divorce Matters Act, 1987 (Act No. 24 of 1987);”;

- (j) by the substitution for the definition of “genital mutilation” of the following definition:

“ **‘genital mutilation’** means a procedure performed for non-medical reasons that has no health benefit and

(a) causes injury to genitals;

(b) removes any part of the genitals; or

(c) alters genital organs;”;

- (k) by the insertion after the definition of “higher education” of the following definition:

“ **‘inter-country adoption’** means the placement, for purposes of adoption, of a child habitually resident in one country in the permanent care of a person habitually resident in another country in accordance with the Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption and the provisions of this Act;”;

- (l) by the substitution for the definition of “midwife” of the following definition:

“ **‘midwife’** means a person registered as a midwife under the Nursing Act, [1978 (Act 50 of 1978)] 2005 (Act No. 33 of 2005);”;

- (m) by the substitution for the definition of “nurse” of the following definition:

“ **‘nurse’** means a person registered as a nurse under the Nursing Act, [1978 (Act 50 of 1978)] 2005 (Act No. 33 of 2005);”;

- (n) by the substitution for paragraph (e) in the definition of “party” of the following paragraph:
- “(e) the **[department]** Department, provincial department of social development or the designated child protection organisation managing the case of the child; or”;
- (o) by the insertion after the definition of “RACAP” of the following definitions:
- “ **‘regional court’** means a court for any regional division as contemplated in the Magistrates’ Courts Act, 1944 (Act No. 32 of 1944);
- (p) by the insertion after the definition of “regional court” of the following definition
- ‘Register’** means the National Child Protection Register contemplated in section 111;”;
- (q) by the insertion after the definition of ‘secure care’ of the following definition:
- “ **‘separated migrant child’** includes a child who is from a foreign country and who has been separated from both parents or from previous legal or customary care-givers, but not necessarily from other adult family members, and includes a child accompanied by an adult family member;”;
- (r) by the substitution for the definition of “sexual abuse” of the following definition:
- “ **‘sexual abuse’**, in relation to a child, means any sexual offence against a child;”; as contemplated in section 1 of Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act 2 of 2007.
- (s) by the substitution for the definition of “temporary safe care” of the following definition:

“ **‘temporary safe care’** [, in relation to a child,] means care of a child in an approved and registered child and youth care centre[, **shelter or private home or any other place,**] or in the care of an approved person, including a place as contemplated in section 167(3) where the child can safely be accommodated pending a decision or court order concerning the placement of the child, but excludes care of a child in a prison or police cell;”;

- (t) by the insertion after the definition of “traditional authority” of the following definition:

“ **‘unaccompanied migrant child’** means a child who is from a foreign country and who has been separated from both parents or other adult family members and is not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so;”;

- (u) by the substitution for subsection (4) of the following subsection:

“(4) Any proceedings arising out of the application of **[the Administration Amendment Act, 1929 (Act 9 of 1929),]** the Divorce Act, the Maintenance Act, the Domestic Violence Act, 1998 (Act No. 116 of 1998), the Civil Union Act, 2006 (Act No. 17 of 2006), and the Recognition of Customary Marriages Act, 1998 (Act No. 120 of 1998), in so far as these Acts relate to children, may not be dealt with in a children’s court.”.

Amendment of section 6 of Act 38 of 2005

2. Section 6 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution in subsection (2) for paragraph (d) of the following paragraph:

“(d) protect the child from unfair discrimination on any ground as contemplated in Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013), Child Justice Act, 2008, (Act No 75 of 2008) and any other relevant legislation [, **including on the grounds of the health status or disability of the child or a family member of the child**];”;

(b) by the substitution in subsection (2) for paragraph (f) of the following paragraph:

“(f) recognise a child’s disability and create an **[enabling]** accessible and inclusive environment to respond to the special needs that the child has.”.

Insertion of section 6A in Act 38 of 2005

3. The following section is hereby inserted in the principal Act after section 6:

“Children’s right to privacy and protection of personal information

6A. (1) A child’s right to privacy and the protection of personal information are subject to the Films and Publication Act, 1996 (Act No. 65 of

1996), the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013), the Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2000 (Act No. 2 of 2000), the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act No. 51 of 1977), or any other law protecting the privacy and protection of personal information of the child.”.

Amendment of section 7 of Act 38 of 2005

4. Section 7 of the principal Act is hereby amended—
- (a) by the deletion of the word “and” at the end of subsection (1)(m);
 - (b) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (n) of the following paragraph:

“(n) which action or decision would avoid or minimise further legal or administrative proceedings in relation to the child[.]; and”; and
 - (c) by the insertion in subsection (1) after paragraph (n) of the following paragraph:

“(o) any special needs that a child may have.”.

Amendment of section 8 of Act 38 of 2005

5. Section 8 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the addition after subsection (3) of the following subsection:

“(4) This Act applies to every child in the Republic of South Africa and any other South African child distressed outside the Republic of South Africa including any child contemplated in Chapters 16 and 17 of the Principal Act.”.

Amendment of section 12 of Act 38 of 2005

6. Section 12 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution in subsection (2) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(a) below the **[minimum age set by law for a valid marriage]** age of 18 years **[may]** must not be given out in marriage or engagement; and”;

(b) by the substitution for subsection (3) of the following subsection:

“(3) Genital mutilation **[or the circumcision]** of **[female]** children is prohibited.”.

Amendment of section 13 of Act 38 of 2005

7. Section 13 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:

“(2) Information provided to children in terms of this subsection must be relevant and must be in a format accessible to children, giving due consideration to the needs of **[disabled]** children with disabilities.”.

Amendment of heading to Part 1 of Chapter 3 of Act 38 of 2005

8. The following heading is hereby substituted for the heading to Part 1 of Chapter 3 of the principal Act:

“**[Acquisition and loss] Automatic acquisition of parental responsibilities and rights**”.

Amendment of section 19 of Act 38 of 2005

9. Section 19 of the principal Act, is hereby amended by the substitution in subsection (2) for paragraph (b) of the following paragraph:

“(b) the biological father of the child does not have guardianship in respect of the child in terms of section 20 or 21,”.

Amendment of section 21 of Act 38 of 2005

10. Section 21 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(a) if at the time of the child’s **[birth he]** conception, or any time between the child’s conception and birth, the biological father is living with the biological mother [in a permanent life-partnership];
or”;

(b) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (b) of the following paragraph:

“(b) if he, regardless of whether he has lived or is living with the biological mother—”;

(c) by the substitution in subsection (1)(b) for subparagraph (ii) of the following subparagraph:

“(ii) contributes or **[has attempted in good faith]** or attempts to contribute to the child’s care including, upbringing or maintenance **[for a reasonable period]**; and”;

(d) by the substitution in subsection (1)(b) for subparagraph (iii) of the following subparagraph:

“(iii) contributes or has attempted **[in good faith]** to contribute towards expenses in connection with the maintenance of the child **[for a reasonable period]**.”;

(e) by the insertion after subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1A) A family advocate may, in the prescribed manner, issue a certificate confirming that the biological father has automatically acquired full parental responsibilities and rights in terms of subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b) upon application from or apply where the biological mother has passed away or is deceased or has abandoned the child.

(a) the mother and biological father jointly;

(b) the biological father, after reaching an agreement during the mediation process referred to in subsection (3); or

(c) the biological father, if—

(i) in terms of subsection (3), he referred the matter for mediation and the mother, after receiving such notice of mediation, unreasonably refused to attend the mediation, and

- (ii) the biological father has shown to the satisfaction of the family advocate that he has automatically acquired full parental responsibilities and rights in terms of subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b).”;
- (f) by the insertion after subsection (1A) of the following subsection:
- “(1B) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, family and community cultural and traditional practices must be taken into account, where applicable, before full parental responsibilities and rights may be acquired by the biological father of a child.”;
- (g) by the substitution in subsection (3) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:
- “(a) If there is a dispute between the biological father referred to in subsection (1) and the biological mother of a child with regard to the fulfilment by that father of the conditions set out in subsection (1)(a) or (b), the matter must be referred for mediation to a family advocate, **[social worker,]** social service **[professional]** practitioner or other suitably qualified person as may be prescribed.”; and
- (h) by the deletion in subsection (3) of paragraph (b).

Insertion of heading to Part 1A after section 21 in Act 38 of 2005

11. The following heading is hereby inserted in the principal Act after section 21:

“Part 1A

Acquisition and loss of parental responsibilities and rights".

Amendment of section 22 of Act 38 of 2005

12. Section 22 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the insertion after subsection (2) of the following subsection:

"(2A) A child who is the subject of a parental responsibilities and rights agreement must be given the opportunity to express his or her views regarding the content of such agreement: Provided that he or she is of sufficient maturity and mental capacity to do so."

(b) by the substitution in subsection (4) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

"(a) registered with the family advocate on application in the prescribed manner; or"

(c) by the substitution in subsection (4) for paragraph (b) of the following paragraph:

"(b) made an order of the High Court, a [divorce] regional court in a divorce matter or the children's court on application by the parties to the agreement."

(d) by the substitution in subsection (6) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

"(a) A parental responsibilities and rights agreement registered by the family advocate may be amended or terminated by the family advocate on application in the prescribed manner—" and

(e) by the deletion of subsection (7).

Amendment of section 23 of Act 38 of 2005

13. Section 23 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution in subsection (1) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words:

“(1) Any person having an interest in the care, well-being or development of a child may apply to the High Court, a **[divorce]** regional court in divorce matters or the children’s court for an order granting to the applicant, on such conditions as the court may deem necessary—”; and

(b) by the substitution for subsection (3) of the following subsection:

“(3) When bringing an application contemplated in subsection (1), the parties must inform the court of any other proceedings that are pending in any other court in respect of the child, and the court may—

(a) request a family advocate, social worker or psychologist to furnish it with a report and recommendations as to what is in the best interests of the child; and

(b) suspend such application on any conditions it may determine.”.

Amendment of section 25 of Act 38 of 2005

14. The following section is hereby substituted for section 25 of the principal Act:

“Certain applications regarded as inter-country adoption

25. **[When]** Subject to section 45(4), when an application is made in terms of section 24 by a non-South African citizen for guardianship of a child, the application **[must be regarded as]**, if heard in the High Court, may be referred to a children’s court having jurisdiction, to be dealt with as if it was an application for an inter-country adoption for the purposes of the Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption and Chapter 16 of this Act or, in exceptional circumstances, as if it was an application for guardianship.”.

Amendment of section 28 of Act 38 of 2005

15. Section 28 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution in subsection (1) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words:

“(1) A person referred to in subsection (3) may apply to the High Court, a **[divorce]** regional court in a divorce matter or a children’s court for an order—”.

Amendment of section 29 of Act 38 of 2005

16. Section 29 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1) An application in terms of section 22(4)(b), 23, 24, 26(1)(b) or 28 may be brought before the High Court, a **[divorce]** regional court in a divorce matter or a children’s court, as the case may be, within whose area of jurisdiction the child concerned is ordinarily resident.”; and

(b) by the insertion after subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1A) Any party to an application in terms of section 22(4)(b), 23, 26(1)(b) or 28 may, in the prescribed manner, refer the matter to the family advocate or social worker for investigation.”.

Insertion of section 30A in Act 38 of 2005

17. The following section is hereby inserted in the principal Act after section 30:

“Residence of child

30A. (1) The parents must agree on the residence of a child.

(2) The residence of a child must be determined in accordance with the best interests of the child and may include—

(a) residence with both parents, where the parents are living together; or

(b) residence with one parent.

(3) The residence of a child does not affect the joint exercise of parental responsibilities and rights by co-holders of parental responsibilities and rights.

(4) The term “parent” or “parents”, as used in this section, includes any co-holder of parental responsibilities and rights.

(5) If there is a dispute between the parents of a child as to the child’s residence, the matter must be referred for mediation to a family advocate, social worker or such other suitably qualified person, as may be prescribed, before approaching the relevant court.”.

Deletion of heading to Part 3 of Chapter 3 of Act 38 of 2005

18. The heading to Part 3 of Chapter 3 of the principal Act is hereby deleted.

Amendment of section 34 of Act 38 of 2005

19. Section 34 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the insertion after subsection (4) of the following subsection:

“(4A) An application contemplated in subsection (4) must be submitted in the prescribed form and manner, and an application for—

(a) amendment of the parenting plan must be accompanied by a copy of the proposed amended parenting plan; or

(b) termination of a parenting plan must include written reasons for the termination of the parenting plan.”.

Amendment of section 35 of Act 38 of 2005

20. Section 35 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1) Any person having care or custody of a child who, contrary to an order of any court, **[or to]** a parental responsibilities and rights agreement or parenting plan that has taken effect as contemplated in **[section]** sections 22(4) and 23, refuses another person who has **[access to]** contact with that child or who holds parental responsibilities and rights in respect of that child in terms of that order or agreement or parenting plan to exercise such **[access]** contact or such responsibilities and rights or who prevents that person from exercising such **[access]** contact or such responsibilities and rights, is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year.”; and

(b) by the substitution in subsection (2) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(a) A person having care or custody of a child whereby another person has **[access to]** contact with that child or holds parental responsibilities and rights in respect of that child in terms of an order of any court, **[or]** a parental responsibilities and rights agreement or a parenting plan as contemplated in subsection (1), must, upon any change in his or her

residential address, forthwith in writing notify such other person of such change.”.

Amendment of section 40 of Act 38 of 2005

21. The following section is hereby substituted for section 40 of the principal Act:

“[Rights of child conceived by artificial] Artificial fertilisation

40.(1) (a) Whenever the gamete or gametes of any person, other than a **[married person or his] birth mother** or her **[spouse] partner**, have been used with the consent of both such **[spouses] partners** for the artificial fertilisation of one **[spouse] partner**, any child born of that **[spouse] birth mother** as a result of such artificial fertilisation must for all purposes be regarded to be the child of those **[spouses] partners** **[as if the gamete or gametes of those spouses had been used for such artificial fertilisation]**.

(b) For the purpose of paragraph (a), it must be presumed, until the contrary is proved, that both **[spouses] partners** have granted the relevant consent.

(2) Subject to section 296, whenever the gamete or gametes of any person have been used for the artificial fertilisation of a woman, any child born of that woman as a result of such artificial fertilisation must for all purposes be regarded to be the child of that woman.

(3) Subject to section 296, no right, responsibility, duty or obligation arises between a child born of a woman as a result of artificial fertilisation and any person whose gamete has or gametes have been used for such artificial fertilisation, or the blood relations of that person, except when—

(a) that person is the **[woman who gave birth to that child]** birth mother; or

(b) that person was the **[husband]** partner of such woman at the time of such artificial fertilisation.

(4) In this section “partner” must be read to include a spouse or a permanent life partner.”.

Insertion of section 41A in Act 38 of 2005

22. The following section is hereby inserted in the principal Act after section 41:

“Regulations

41A. (1) The Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, after consultation with the Minister, may make regulations concerning the—

(a) particulars to be contained in the certificate relating to biological fathers contemplated in section 21(1A);

(b) categories of persons who may be regarded as suitably qualified persons for purposes of sections 21(3)(a) and 33(5)(b);

(c) particulars to be contained in a parental responsibilities and rights agreement contemplated in section 22(3);

- (d) particulars to be contained in an application for registration of a parental responsibilities and rights agreement contemplated in section 22(4);
- (e) particulars to be contained in an application for amendment or termination of a parental responsibilities and rights agreement contemplated in section 22(6);
- (f) form and manner in which an application for granting parental responsibilities and rights should be lodged in the children's court as contemplated in section 23(1);
- (g) form and manner in which an investigation may be referred to the family advocate as contemplated in section 29(1A);
- (h) particulars to be contained in a parenting plan contemplated in section 34(1);
- (i) particulars to be contained in an application for registration of a parenting plan as contemplated in section 34(3);
- (j) particulars to be contained in an application for amendment or termination of a parenting plan as contemplated in section 34(4A); and
- (k) any other matter that may be prescribed in terms of this Act.

Amendment of section 44 of Act 38 of 2005

23. Section 44 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the addition after subsection (2) of the following subsection:

“(3) A matter may be transferred from one children’s court to another children’s court having jurisdiction, if it would be in the best interests of the child.”.

Amendment of section 46 of Act 38 of 2005

24. Section 46 of the principal Act is hereby amended

(a) by the insertion in subsection after paragraph (c) of the following paragraph:

“(cA) an order for the assignment, exercise, extension, restriction, suspension or termination of parental responsibilities and rights in respect of a child;”.

(b) by the addition after subsection (2) of the following subsection

“3. notwithstanding the provision of subsection (2) the Minister may by notice in the gazette extend any order for reasons that are fair and just and in the best interests of a child.”.

Amendment of section 49 of Act 38 of 2005

25. Section 49 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(a) mediation by a family advocate, social worker, social service [professional] practitioner or other suitably qualified person as may be prescribed;”.

Amendment of section 52 of Act 38 of 2005

26. Section 52 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution in subsection (2) for paragraph (b) of the following paragraph:

“(b) the use of suitably qualified or trained interpreters, including sign language, speech and tactile interpreters.”; and

(b) by the addition after subsection (2) of the following subsection:

“(3) Except as otherwise provided for in this Act, rules made in terms of the Magistrates’ Courts Act, 1944 (Act No. 32 of 1944), apply, with the necessary changes required by the context, to the children’s court in so far as the rules made under subsection (1) do not provide for any aspect or process.”.

Amendment of section 57 of Act 38 of 2005

27. Section 57 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1) The clerk of the children’s court **[may, by written notice in the prescribed manner]**, must when so ordered by the court issue a written notice in a manner prescribed in the rules [.] or request a party in a matter before a children’s court, a family member of a child involved in the matter or a person who has an [another] interest in the matter, to attend the proceedings of the children’s court.”; and

(b) by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:

“(2) The person in whose **[physical control]** care the child is, must ensure that the child attends those proceedings, except if **[the clerk of the children’s court or]** the court directs otherwise.”

Amendment of section 62 of Act 38 of 2005

28. Section 62 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (e) of the following paragraph:

“(e) the person **[under]** in whose **[control]** care the child is; or”; and

(b) by the substitution in subsection (2) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(a) obtain supplementary evidence or reports from other suitably qualified persons as may be prescribed”.

Amendment of section 63 of Act 38 of 2005

29. Section 63 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1) A written report, **[purported to be]** compiled and signed by a medical practitioner, psychologist, family counsellor, family advocate, designated social worker or other suitably qualified person as may be prescribed who, on the face of the report, formed an authoritative opinion in respect of a child, or the

circumstances of a child₁ involved in a matter before a children's court, or in respect of another person involved in the matter₁ or the circumstances of such other person, is, subject to the decision of the presiding officer, on its mere production to the children's court hearing the matter₁ admissible as evidence of the facts stated in the report.”.

Amendment of section 66 of Act 38 of 2005

30. Section 66 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for paragraph (d) of the following paragraph:

“(d) for the purpose of *bona fide* research or the reporting of cases in law reports, provided the provisions of section [74] 6A are complied with.”.

Deletion of section 74 of Act 38 of 2005

31. Section 74 of the principal Act is hereby deleted.

Amendment of section 75 of Act 38 of 2005

32. Section 75 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

- (a) by the deletion of the word “and” at the end of paragraph (j); and
- (b) by the insertion in subsection (1) after paragraph (j) of the following paragraph:

“(jA) the responsibility for bearing of costs relating to investigations and reports contemplated in section 62; and”.

Amendment of section 76 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 4 of Act 41 of 2007

33. The following section is hereby substituted for section 76 of the principal Act:

“Partial care

76. (1) **[Partial]** Subject to subsection (2), partial care is provided when a person, whether for or without reward, takes care of more than six children on behalf of their parents, guardians or care-givers during specific hours of the day or night, or for a temporary period, by agreement between the parents, guardians or care-givers and the provider of the service, but excludes care of a child—

- (a) by a school as part of tuition, training and other activities provided by the school;
- (b) as a boarder in a school hostel or other residential facility managed as part of a school; or
- (c) by a hospital or other medical facility as part of medical treatment provided to the child.

(2) A partial care facility operated or managed by the Department, provincial department or a municipality may register in accordance with section 80 if there are less than six children being cared for.”.

Amendment of section 78 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 4 of Act 41 of 2007

34. Section 78 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for subsection (3) of the following subsection:

“(3) **[The owner or manager of a partial care facility or provider of a partial care service]** A partial care facility only qualifies for funding contemplated in subsection (1) if such **[owner, manager or provider]** facility complies with the prescribed national norms and standards contemplated in section 79 and such other requirements as may be prescribed.”;

(b) by the insertion after subsection (3) of the following subsection:

“(3A) A partial care facility registered with conditions qualifies for funding notwithstanding only partial compliance with the prescribed national norms and standards.”;

(c) by the substitution for subsection (4) of the following subsection

“(4) **[The funding of partial care facilities must be prioritised]** The MEC for social development may prioritise and fund partial care facilities and services—

(a) in poverty declared wards in a province, taking into consideration the national and provincial strategies contemplated in section 77, and in communities where families lack the means of providing

proper shelter, food and other basic necessities of life to their children; and

(b) to make facilities accessible to children with disabilities.”; and

(d) by the addition after subsection (4) of the following subsection:

“(5) The funding for infrastructure of partial care facilities does not apply to –

(i) private homes of registered non-profit organisations,

(ii) private homes in general,

(iii) business properties; or

(iv) properties not owned by a non-profit organisation.”.

Amendment of section 79 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 4 of Act 41 of 2007

35. Section 79 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution in subsection (3)(c) for subparagraph (iii) of the following subparagraph:

“(iii) **[basic]** therapeutic interventions.”; and

(b) by the substitution for subsection (4) of the following subsection:

“(4) A partial care facility may offer programmes appropriate to the developmental and functional needs of the children in that facility as may be prescribed.”.

Amendment of section 81 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 4 of Act 41 of 2007

36. Section 81 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution in subsection (1) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words:

“(1) An application for registration [**or conditional registration**] of a partial care facility or [**for the reinstatement or** renewal of registration must—”; and

(b) by the substitution in subsection (1)(c) for subparagraph (i) of the following subparagraph:

“(i) a report by a social service [**professional**] practitioner on the viability of the application; and”.

Amendment of section 82 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 4 of Act 41 of 2007

37. Section 82 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for subsection (4) of the following subsection:

“(4) The provincial head of social development must consider the report contemplated in section 81(1)(c)(i) of a social service [**professional**] practitioner before deciding an application for registration[, **conditional registration**] or renewal of registration.”; and

(b) by the substitution for subsection (5) of the following subsection:

“(5) Notwithstanding section 78(3), a provincial head of social development may assist the owner or manager of a partial care facility where registration with conditions is granted, to comply with the prescribed national norms and standards contemplated in section 79 and such other requirements as may be prescribed.”.

Amendment of section 83 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 4 of Act 41 of 2007

38. The following section is hereby substituted for section 83 of the principal Act:

“Conditions relating to registration

83. The registration or renewal of registration of a partial care facility may be granted on such conditions as the provincial head of social development may determine, including—

(a) conditions specifying the type of partial care that may or must be provided in terms of the registration;

(b) the period for compliance with the conditions referred to in paragraph (a);

(c) authentication of the residence status of the person renewing or making application of a partial care facility; and

(d) any other matter that may be prescribed.”.

Amendment of section 85 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 4 of Act 41 of 2007

39. Section 85 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the addition after subsection (3) of the following subsection:

“(3A) The owner, manager or organisation operating a partial care facility, which has been instructed or ordered to stop operating such facility, must immediately after receiving such instruction or order, notify the parent of the affected child.”.

Amendment of section 87 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 4 of Act 41 of 2007

40. Section 87 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (c) of the following paragraph:

‘(c) monitor partial care facilities and conduct routine inspections at the prescribed intervals of partial care facilities in the province to enforce the provisions of this Act.’.

Amendment of section 88 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 4 of Act 41 of 2007

41. Section 88 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1) The **[provincial head of] MEC for** social development may by written agreement with a municipality, assign the performance of some or all of the functions contemplated in sections 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85 and 87 to the municipal manager, after consultation with the municipal council, if the **[provincial head of] MEC for** social development is satisfied that the municipality complies with the prescribed requirements with regards to the capacity of that municipality to perform the functions concerned.”; and

(b) by the substitution for subsection (3) of the following subsection:

“(3) The municipal manager referred to in subsection (1) may delegate any power or duty assigned to him or her in terms of this section to a social service **[professional] practitioner** in the employ of the municipality.”.

Amendment of section 89 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 4 of Act 41 of 2007

42. Section 89 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1) If a child is seriously injured or abused while in partial care or following an occurrence at a partial care facility, the person operating the partial care facility or a person employed at the partial care facility must immediately report such injury or abuse to the provincial head of social development, who must **[cause an investigation to be conducted into the circumstances of the**

serious injury or abuse] act in accordance with the provisions of section 110(5).”.

Amendment of section 90 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 4 of Act 41 of 2007

43. Section 90 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(a) the national norms and standards that partial care facilities must comply with, as contemplated in section 79;”;

(b) by the deletion of the word “and” at the end of paragraph (h), and the insertion of the word “and” at the end of paragraph (i); and

(c) by the addition after paragraph (h) of the following paragraphs:

“(hA) inspection and monitoring of partial care facilities and services; and
(hB) assignment of functions to municipalities.”.

Amendment of section 105 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 5 of Act 41 of 2007 and amended by section 4 of Act 17 of 2022

44. Section 105 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the insertion after subsection (5) of the following subsection:

Amendment of section 106 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 5 of Act No. 41 of 2007

45. Section 106 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the deletion of the word “and” at the end of subsection (2)(j);

(b) by the substitution in subsection (2) for paragraph (k) of the following paragraph:

“(k) child-headed households[.]”; and

(c) by the addition in subsection (2) after paragraph (k) of the following paragraphs:

“(l) rehabilitation services for children with disabilities; and

(m) quality assurance.”.

Amendment of section 107 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 5 of Act 41 of 2007

46. Section 107 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1) The Director-General [**or provincial head of social development**], on receipt of a written application, may designate any appropriate organisation that complies with the prescribed criteria as a child protection organisation to perform all or any specific designated child protection services [**in the relevant province**].”;

(b) by the insertion after subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1A) The provincial head of social development may, on receipt of a written application, designate any organisation that complies with the prescribed criteria as a child protection organisation to perform all or any specific designated child protection services in the relevant province.”;

- (c) by the substitution in subsection (2) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words:

“(2) A designation in terms of subsection (1) or (1A)”; and

- (d) by the substitution for subsection (4) of the following subsection:

“(4) Sections 310 and 311, read with such changes as the context may require, apply to any assignment in terms of subsection (1) or (1A).”.

Amendment of section 109 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 5 of Act 41 of 2007

- 47.** Section 109 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

- (a) by the substitution in subsection (1) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words:

“The Director-General or [provincial head of] MEC for social development, as the case may be, may withdraw, in the prescribed manner, the designation of a child protection organisation as contemplated in section 107 to perform any, or any specific, designated child protection service—”; and

- (b) by the addition after subsection (2) of the following subsections:

“(3) A child protection organisation aggrieved by a decision made under subsection (1) may lodge an appeal, in the prescribed form and manner, within 90 days of receipt of such decision—

(a) to the Minister, if the designation was made in terms of section 107(1); or

(b) to the MEC for social development, if the designation was made in terms of section 107(1A).

(4) The Minister or MEC for social development, as the case may be, must finalise an appeal within 90 days from receipt thereof.”.

Amendment of section 110 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 5 of Act 41 of 2007

48. Section 110 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1) Any clerk of the children’s court or court official, correctional official, dentist, homoeopath, immigration official or an official in the employ of the Department of Home Affairs, labour inspector, legal practitioner, medical practitioner, midwife, minister of religion, nurse, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, psychologist, religious leader, social service [professional] practitioner, [social worker,] speech therapist, teacher, traditional health practitioner, traditional leader or member of staff or volunteer worker at a partial care facility, drop-in centre or child and youth

care centre, any person working with children, or a ward councillor who,
on reasonable grounds, **[concludes]** suspects that a child has been
abused, must report that **[conclusion]** suspicion, in the prescribed form,
to a designated child protection organisation, the provincial department of
social development or a police official.”; and

- (b) by the substitution in subsection (5) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the
following words:

“(5) The provincial department of social development or
designated child protection organisation to **[whom]** which a report has
been made in terms of subsection (1), (2) or (4), or the provincial head of
social development to whom a report has been made in terms of section
89(1), 178(1) or 226(1), must—”.

Amendment of section 111 of Act 38 of 2005

49. Section 111 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the addition after
subsection (2) of the following subsection:

“(3) The Director-General must designate an official from the
Department as the Registrar of the Register.”.

Amendment of section 114 of Act 38 of 2005

50. Section 114 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

- (a) by the substitution in subsection (2)(a) for subparagraph (vii) of the following subparagraph:

“(vii) the name and physical address of the institution, including the child and youth care centre, partial care facility or **[shelter or]** drop-in centre, if the incident occurred at such a place;” and

- (b) by the substitution in subsection (2)(c) for subparagraph (viii) of the following subparagraph:

“(viii) a brief summary of the services rendered to the child found to be in need of care and protection; and”.

Amendment of section 117 of Act 38 of 2005

51. Section 117 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

- (a) by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:

“(2) Inquiries in terms of subsection (1) must be directed in the prescribed format to the **[Director-General]** Registrar of the Register on a confidential basis.”; and

- (b) by the substitution for subsection (3) of the following subsection:

“(3) The **[Director-General]** Registrar of the Register must respond to such inquiries in writing within 21 working days and indicate whether the relevant person’s name is in Part A of the Register.”.

Insertion of section 117A in Act 38 of 2005

52. The following section is hereby inserted in the principal Act after section 117:

“Removal of name from Part A of Register

117A. (1) A child or person whose name appears in Part A of the Register may, in terms of subsection (2), apply for the removal of his or her name and any information relating to him or her from the Register.

(2) An application for the removal of a name and particulars from the Register may be made in the prescribed form and manner—

(a) to the Registrar of the Register, if the Registrar is satisfied that the entry was made in error; or

(b) to any court, including a children’s court, if the Registrar of the Register refuses an application in terms of paragraph (a).”.

Amendment of heading after section 117 of Act 38 of 2005

53. The heading after section 117 of the principal Act is hereby substituted for the following heading:

“Part B of Register: Persons unsuitable to work with children”.

Amendment of section 119 of Act 38 of 2005

54. Section 119 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words:

“(1) Part B of the Register must be a record of persons found in terms of section 120 to be unsuitable to work with children, and must reflect—”;

(b) by the substitution for paragraph (f) of the following paragraph:

“(f) such other **[prescribed]** information as may be prescribed.”; and

(c) by the addition of the following subsection:

“(2) For purposes of sections 120 to 128, a reference to “a person”, unless the context indicates otherwise, means—

(a) a person who is 18 years of age or older; or

(b) in the case of a person who is alleged to have committed an offence against a child, a person who was 18 years of age or older at the time of the alleged commission of such offence.”.

Amendment of section 122 of Act 38 of 2005

55. Section 122 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for the heading of the following heading:

“**Findings to be reported to [Director-General] Registrar of Register**”;

(b) by the substitution for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words:

“(1) The registrar of the relevant court, or the relevant administrative forum, or, if the finding was made on application in terms of section 120(2), the person who brought the application, must notify the **[Director-General] Registrar of the Register**, in writing—”;

(c) by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:

“(2) The **[Director-General] Registrar of the Register** must enter the name of a person found unsuitable to work with children as contemplated in section 120 in Part B of the Register regardless of whether appeal proceedings have been instituted or not.”; and

(d) by the substitution for subsection (3) of the following subsection:

“(3) If, after appeal or review proceedings have been concluded, a finding in terms of section 120 that a person is unsuitable to work with children is reversed, the **[Director-General] Registrar of the Register** must forthwith remove the name of the person from the Register.”.

Amendment of section 123 of Act 38 of 2005

56. Section 123 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(a) manage or operate, or participate or assist in managing or operating, an institution providing **[welfare] care and protection** services to children, including a child and youth care centre, a

partial care facility, a **[shelter or]** drop-in centre, a cluster foster care scheme, a school, club or association providing services to children;”;

(b) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (b) of the following paragraph:

“(b) work with or have access to children at an institution providing **[welfare] care and protection** services to children, including a child and youth care centre, a partial care facility, a **[shelter or]** drop-in centre, a school, club or association providing services to children, or in implementing a cluster foster care scheme, either as an employee, volunteer or in any other capacity;”;

(c) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (d) of the following paragraph:

“(d) work in **[any unit of]** the South African Police Service **[tasked with child protection]** in a capacity that brings him or her into contact with children;”;

(d) by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:

“(2) No person managing or operating or who participates or assists in managing or operating an institution providing **[welfare] care and protection** services to children, including a child and youth care centre, a partial care facility, a **[shelter or]** drop-in centre or a school, may allow a person whose name appears in Part B of the Register to work with or have access to children at the centre, facility, **[shelter]** or school, either as an employee, volunteer or in any other capacity.”; and

(e) by the substitution for subsection (4) of the following subsection:

“(4) The South African Police Service **[may]** must not allow a person whose name appears in Part B of the Register to work in **[a unit of]** the South African Police Service **[tasked with child protection]** in a capacity that brings him or her into contact with children, unless evidence to the contrary is provided.”.

Amendment of section 124 of Act 38 of 2005

57. Section 124 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(a) works with or has access to children at an institution providing **[welfare]** care and protection services to children, including a child and youth care centre, a partial care facility, a **[shelter or]** drop-in centre, a cluster foster care scheme or a school either as an employee, volunteer or in any other capacity, that person must disclose that fact to the person who manages or operates the institution, centre, facility**[, shelter]** or school;”;

(b) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (c) of the following paragraph:

“(c) works in **[a unit of]** the South African Police Service **[tasked with child protection]** in a capacity that brings him or her into contact with children, that person must disclose that fact to the South African Police Service;”.

Amendment of section 125 of Act 38 of 2005

58. Section 125 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the insertion in subsection (1) after paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(aA) the Registrar of the Register;”.

Amendment of section 126 of Act 38 of 2005

59. Section 126 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(a) to work with or have access to children at an institution providing **[welfare]** care and protection services to children, including child and youth care centre, a partial care facility, a **[shelter or]** drop-in centre or school, the person managing or operating the institution, centre, facility**[, shelter]** or school must establish whether or not that person’s name appears in Part B of the Register;”;

(b) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (c) of the following paragraph:

“(c) to work in **[a unit of]** the South African Police Service **[tasked with child protection]**, the Service must establish whether or not that person’s name appears in Part B of the Register;”;

(c) by the substitution in subsection (2) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(a) the person managing or operating an institution, centre, facility**[, shelter]** or school contemplated in subsection (1)(a) must establish

whether the name of any person who works with or has access to children at the institution, centre, facility[, **shelter**] or school appears in Part B of the Register;”;

(d) by the substitution in subsection (2) for paragraph (c) of the following paragraph:

“(c) the South African Police Service must establish whether the name of any person who works in **[a unit of]** the South African Police **[tasked with child protection]** appears in Part B of the Register;”;

(e) by the substitution for subsection (4) of the following subsection:

“(4) Inquiries in terms of subsection (1), (2) or (3) must be directed in writing to the **[Director-General]** Registrar of the Register on a confidential basis.”; and

(f) by the substitution for subsection (5) of the following subsection:

“(5) In the event of an inquiry made to the **[Director-General]** Registrar of the Register in terms of—

- (a) subsection (1), the **[Director-General]** Registrar of the Register must respond in writing within 21 working days by indicating whether the person’s name appears in Part B of the Register or not;
- (b) subsection (2), the **[Director-General]** Registrar of the Register must respond in writing within six months by indicating whether the person’s name appears in Part B of the Register or not; and
- (c) subsection (3), the **[Director-General]** Registrar of the Register must respond in writing within 21 working days by indicating

whether the person's name appears in Part B of the Register, and if so, the reasons why his or her name was entered in the Register.”.

Amendment of section 127 of Act 38 of 2005

60. Section 127 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for subsection (3) of the following subsection:

“(3) The **[Director-General]** Registrar of the Register must inform a person found unsuitable to work with children, within 21 working days of such entry, **[when]** that **[person's]** his or her name and particulars are entered in Part B of the Register.”.

Amendment of section 128 of Act 38 of 2005, as amended by section 4 of Act 17 of 2016

61. Section 128 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution in subsection (2) for paragraph (b) of the following paragraph:

“(b) to the **[Director-General]** Registrar of the Register, if the entry was made in error; or”; and

(b) by the substitution in subsection (2) for paragraph (c) of the following paragraph:

“(c) to the High Court if the **[Director-General]** Registrar of the Register refuses an application in terms of paragraph (b).”.

Amendment of section 131 of Act 38 of 2005

62. The following section is hereby substituted for section 131 of the principal Act:

“[HIV-testing for foster care or adoption purposes] Medical testing for children in need of care and protection or adoption

131. If necessary medical testing, including HIV-testing of a child is done for **[foster]** children in need of care and protection or adoption purposes, the state must pay the cost of such tests where circumstances permit.”.

Amendment of section 135 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 5 of Act 41 of 2007

63. Section 135 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1) The Director-General, a provincial head of social development or a designated child protection organisation may apply to a High Court, a **[divorce]** regional court in divorce matters or a children’s court for an order—

- (a) suspending for a period, terminating or transferring any or all of the parental responsibilities and rights which a specific person has in respect of a child; or
- (b) restricting or circumscribing the exercise by that person of any or all of the parental responsibilities and rights that person has in respect of a child.”.

Amendment of section 141 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 5 of Act 41 of 2007 and section 34 of Act 8 of 2017

64. Section 141 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution in subsection (2) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words:

“(2) **[A social worker or social service professional]** Any person, including persons contemplated in section 110(1), who becomes aware of—”.

Amendment of section 142 of Act 38 of 2005, as amended by section 6 of Act 41 of 2007 and section 5 of Act 17 of 2022

65. Section 142 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for paragraph (f) of the following paragraph:

“(f) prescribing the conditions for the examination or assessment of children who have been abused, abandoned or neglected, including the consent of the child for any such examination or assessment given the age and maturity of the child;” and

(b) by the deletion of the word “and” at the end of paragraph (j) and the insertion after paragraph (j) of the following paragraphs:

“(jA) prescribing the powers, duties and responsibilities of the Registrar of the National Child Protection Register;

(jB) prescribing the criteria for the establishment and resourcing of designated child care and protection units; and”.

Amendment of section 145 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 7 of Act 41 of 2007

66. Section 145 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for subsection (3) of the following subsection:

“(3) The MEC for social development must compile a provincial profile at the prescribed intervals in order to make **[the necessary]** such information as may be prescribed available for the development and review of the strategies referred to in subsections (1) and (2).”.

Amendment of section 146 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 7 of Act 41 of 2007

67. Section 146 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for subsection (3) of the following subsection:

“(3) The provider of prevention and early intervention programmes **[only qualifies]** may qualify for funding contemplated in subsection (1) if the programmes substantially comply with the prescribed national norms and standards contemplated in section 147 and such other requirements as may be prescribed.”;

(b) by the substitution for subsection (4) of the following subsection:

“(4) The funding of prevention and early intervention programmes must be prioritised—

- (a) in communities where families lack the means of providing proper shelter, food and other basic necessities of life to their children; **[and]**
- (b) to make prevention and early intervention programmes available to children with disabilities~~[.]~~; and
- (c) for children below school-going age.".

Amendment of section 147 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 7 of Act 41 of 2007

68. Section 147 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

- (a) by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1) The Minister must determine national norms and standards for prevention and early intervention programmes by regulation after consultation with **[interested persons and]** the Ministers of Basic Education, Finance, Health, **[Provincial and Local Government and]** Higher Education, Science and Technology, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Transport and any other Minister, MEC for social development, stake-holder and civil society organisations that have an interest in the matter.”;

- (b) by the substitution in subsection (2) for paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e), respectively, of the following paragraphs:

“(a) partnerships with civil society and appropriate funding frameworks for service delivery associated with such partnerships;

- (b) minimum standards and guiding principles for service delivery;
- (c) assessment, monitoring and evaluation of services;
- (d) services reporting guidelines; and
- (e) guidelines for specific services, including but not limited to—
 - (i) therapeutic programmes;
 - (ii) family preservation;
 - (iii) skills development programmes;
 - (iv) diversion programmes;
 - (v) temporary safe care;
 - (vi) rehabilitation and support for children with disabilities;
 - (vii) education and information;
 - (viii) community-based prevention and early intervention programmes; and
 - (ix) assessment of programmes.”; and

(c) by the addition after subsection (2) of the following subsection:

“(3) The norms and standards contemplated in subsection (1) must promote an understanding of prevention and early intervention approaches.”.

Insertion of section 149A in Act 38 of 2005

69. The following section is hereby inserted in the principle Act after section 149:

“Regulations

149A. The Minister may make regulations regarding any matter necessary to facilitate the implementation of this Chapter.”.

Amendment of section 150 of Act 38 of 2005, as amended by section 5 of Act 17 of 2016 and section 6 of Act 17 of 2022

70. Section 150 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(a) has been abandoned or orphaned and has no parent, guardian, family member or care-giver who is able and suitable to care for that child;”; and

Amendment of section 156 of Act 38 of 2005, as amended by section 9 of Act 41 of 2007 and section 8 of Act 17 of 2022

71. Section 156 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution in subsection (1)(e) for subparagraph (ii) of the following subparagraph:

“(ii) foster care with **[a group of persons or an organisation operating]** an identified foster parent who is part of a cluster foster care scheme;”.

Amendment of section 167 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 10 of Act 41 of 2007

72. Section 167 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:

“(2) (a) A child may not be in temporary safe care **[or be kept or retained at any place or facility, including a registered child and youth care centre,]** for longer than **[six months]** 72 hours without a court order **[placing the child in alternative care]**.

(b) A court order granted in terms of paragraph (a) may not place a child in temporary safe care for a period longer than six months at a time.

(c) A child may not be in foster care or in a registered child and youth care centre without a court order placing the child in such care.”;

(c) by the substitution in subsection (3) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(a) The provincial head of social development must approve a person, facility, place **[or premises]** or a registered child and youth care centre for purposes of temporary safe care in the prescribed manner.”;

(d) by the substitution in subsection (3) for paragraph (b) of the following paragraph:

“(b) A person, facility, place or **[premises]** a registered child and youth care centre contemplated in paragraph (a) for temporary safe care must comply with the prescribed criteria.”;

(e) by the addition in subsection (3) after paragraph (b) of the following paragraph:

“(c) The approval period contemplated in paragraph (a), in respect of—

(i) a person, facility or other place is valid for a period not exceeding two years; and

- (ii) a registered child and youth care centre, is valid for a period not exceeding five years.”; and
- (f) by the deletion of subsection (4).

Amendment of section 170 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 10 of Act 41 of 2007

73. Section 170 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

- (a) by the substitution for subsection (4) of the following subsection:

“(4) On apprehending a child in alternative care who has absconded or failed to return in terms of subsection (1), the—

(a) designated social worker must ensure the safety and well-being of the child concerned, if the child’s safety or well-being is at risk; or

(b) police official must—

- (i) ensure the safety and well-being of the child concerned, if the child’s safety or well-being is at risk~~[,]~~; and
- (ii) notify the provincial department of social development or a designated child protection organisation **[of the fact]** that the child has been apprehended and of any steps that have been taken with regard to the child, which may include the return of the child to the person, facility, place or centre in whose alternative care the child was before absconding, until such time as the matter appears before a children’s court as

contemplated in subsection (5), or an assessment of the
child has taken place as contemplated in subsection (5A).”;

- (b) by the substitution in subsection (5) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words:

“(5) A child **[so]** apprehended after a period of 48 hours
from absconding [or a child who returns, of his or her own accord, to
the centre or person in whose alternative care he or she was before
absconding]—”; and

- (c) by the insertion after subsection (5) of the following subsection:

“(5A) A child—

(a) who is apprehended within a period of 48 hours from absconding;

or

(b) who returns, on his or her own accord, to the person, facility, place
or centre in whose alternative care the child was before
absconding.

must be assessed by a designated social worker or the social worker
within the child and youth care centre, without delay, to establish the
reasons for absconding.

(5B) The designated social worker may—

(a) make written recommendations to the provincial head of social
development regarding the transfer of the child to another form of
alternative care or the discharge of the child from alternative care;
or

(b) take no further action, if justified in the circumstances.”.

Amendment of section 178 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 10 of Act 41 of 2007

74. Section 178 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1) If a child in alternative care is seriously injured or abused, the management of the child and youth care centre, person or organisation in whose care or temporary safe care the child has been placed must immediately report the matter to the provincial head of social development, who must **[cause an investigation to be conducted into the circumstances of the serious injury or abuse]** act in accordance with the provisions of section 110(5).”.

Amendment of section 179 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 10 of Act 41 of 2007

75. Section 179 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(a) the manner in which a person, **[facility, place or premises for]** registered child and youth care centre and place for temporary safe care, must be approved;”;

(b) by the substitution for paragraph (b) of the following paragraph:

- “(b) the criteria that a person, **[facility, place or premises for]**
registered child and youth care centre or place for temporary safe
care, must comply with;”;
- (c) by the substitution for paragraph (d) of the following paragraph:
- “(d) the manner in which children in alternative care must be granted
leave of absence, transferred or provisionally transferred, their
residential care programmes changed, be removed or permanently
discharged from alternative care;”;
- (d) by the insertion after paragraph (e) of the following paragraph:
- “(eA) fees payable to a person with whom a child is placed in temporary
safe care;”;
- (e) by the deletion of the word “and” at the end of paragraph (f) and the insertion
after paragraph (f) of the following paragraphs:
- “(fA) the manner in which the provincial head of social development may
grant written approval for children in alternative care to leave the
Republic;
- (fB) the form in which an appeal against a decision taken in terms of
this Chapter must be lodged with the MEC for social development;
and”.

**Amendment of section 181 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 10 of Act 41
of 2007**

76. Section 181 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for paragraph (b) of the following paragraph:

“(b) promote the goals of permanency planning, first towards family reunification, or by connecting children to other safe and nurturing family relationships **[intended to last a lifetime; and]**”; and

(b) by the substitution for paragraph (c) of the following paragraph:

“(c) promote and respect the individual and family by demonstrating a respect for cultural, ethnic and community diversity.”.

Amendment of section 188 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 10 of Act 41 of 2007

77. Section 188 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution in subsection (2) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(a) any views and wishes expressed by the child, bearing in mind the child’s age, maturity and stage of development and disability, if any.”.

Amendment of section 191 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 10 of Act 41 of 2007 and amended by section 99 of Act 75 of 2008

78. Section 191 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution in subsection (1) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words:

- “(1) A registered child and youth care centre is a facility for the provision of residential care to more than six children outside the child’s family environment in accordance with a residential care programme suited for the children in the facility, but excludes—”;
- (b) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (e) of the following paragraph:
- “(e) a **[prison]** correctional centre as contemplated in the Correctional Services Act, 1998 (Act No. 111 of 1998), or treatment centre as contemplated in the Prevention of and Treatment for Substance Abuse Act, 2008 (Act No. 70 of 2008); or”;
- (c) by the substitution in subsection (2) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words:
- “(2) A registered child and youth care centre must offer **[a]** therapeutic **[programme]** and developmental programmes designed for the residential care of children outside the family **[environment]** environment, which may include a programme designed for—”;
- (d) by the substitution in subsection (2) for paragraph (b) of the following paragraph:
- “(b) the reception, care and development of children on a shared basis with the parent or other person having parental rights and responsibilities;”;
- (e) by the deletion of the word “or” at the end of subsection (2)(k);
- (f) by the substitution in subsection (2) for paragraph (l) of the following paragraph:
- “(l) the reception and care of children for any other purpose that may be prescribed by regulation~~[,]~~”;

- (g) by the addition after paragraph (l) of the following paragraphs:
- “(m) the reception, development and secure care of children with disruptive behaviour disorder; or
- (n) the assistance of a person prior to leaving a child and youth care centre and to provide after-care services for a period not exceeding 12 months.”;
- (h) by the substitution in subsection (2)(j) for subparagraph (ii) of the following subparagraph:
- “(ii) in terms of section 156(1)[(i)](h) placing the child in a child and youth care centre which provides a secure care programme; or”;
- (i) by the substitution in subsection (2) for paragraph (k) of the following paragraph:
- “(k) the reception, stabilisation and care of **[street]** children living, begging or working on the street; or”; and
- (j) by the deletion in subsection (3) of paragraph (e).

Amendment of section 193 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 10 of Act 41 of 2007

79. Section 193 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

- (a) by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1) The MEC for social development must, from money appropriated by the relevant provincial legislature, provide and fund registered child and youth care centres for that province.”;

(b) by the substitution for subsection (3) of the following subsection:

“(3) **[An accredited organisation operating a] A**
registered child and youth care centre only qualifies for funding from
money appropriated by a provincial legislature if it complies with the
prescribed national norms and standards contemplated in section 194 and
such other requirements as may be prescribed.”; and

(c) by the addition after subsection (3) of the following subsection:

“(4) The MEC for social development may determine
whether a registered child and youth care centre qualify for funding,
notwithstanding only conditional compliance with the prescribed national
norms and standards.”.

**Amendment of section 194 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 10 of Act 41
of 2007**

80. Section 194 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1) The Minister must determine national norms and standards for child
and youth care centres by regulation after consultation with **[interested
persons and]** the Ministers of Basic Education, Health, Higher Education,
Science and Technology, Home Affairs, **[and]** Justice and Constitutional
Development, Public Works and Infrastructure, Cooperative Governance

and Traditional Affairs and any other Minister, MEC for social development, stakeholder and civil society organisation that has an interest in the matter.”; and

(b) by the insertion in subsection (2) after paragraph (l) of the following paragraph:

“(lA) access to rehabilitation services for children with disabilities.”.

Amendment of section 197 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 10 of Act 41 of 2007

81. Section 197 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution in section 197 for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words:

“Any national or provincial state department responsible for social development, municipality and **[accredited]** designated child protection organisation may establish and operate a child and youth care centre provided that the centre—”.

Amendment of section 199 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 10 of Act 41 of 2007

82. Section 199 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution in subsection (1) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words:

- “(1) An application for registration [**or conditional registration**] of a child and youth care centre established as referred to in section 197, or for the renewal of such a registration must—”; and
- (b) by the substitution for subsection (4) of the following subsection:
- “(4) The provincial head of social development must renew the registration of a [**partial care facility**] child and youth care centre before the expiration thereof if the application for renewal was lodged at least 90 days before the registration was due to expire as contemplated in subsection (3).”.

Amendment of section 200 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 10 of Act 41 of 2007

83. Section 200 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for subsection (5) of the following subsection:

“(5) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 193(3) a provincial head of social development may assist the [**person or**] designated child protection organisation operating a child and youth care centre, where registration was granted with conditions, to comply with the prescribed national norms and standards contemplated in section 194 and such other requirements as may be prescribed.”.

Amendment of section 201 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 10 of Act 41 of 2007

84. The following section is hereby substituted for section 201 of the principal Act:

“[Conditional registration] Conditions relating to registration

201. The registration or renewal of registration of a child and youth care centre may be granted on such conditions as the provincial head of social development may determine, including **[conditions]**—

- (a) conditions specifying the type of residential care programme that may or must be provided in terms of the registration;
- (b) **[stating]** the period for compliance **[which]** with the **[conditional registration will remain valid]** conditions referred to in paragraph (a), which may not be longer than **[one year]** two years; and
- (c) conditions providing for any other matters that may be prescribed.”.

Amendment of section 205 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 10 of Act 41 of 2007

85. The following section is hereby substituted for section 205 of the principal Act:

“Voluntary closure of child and youth care centre

205. The **[holder of a registration of]** department, municipality or designated child protection organisation operating a child and youth care centre

[who] that voluntarily closes **[a child and youth care]** such centre must, within 90 days prior to such closure—

- (a) give written notice to the provincial head of social development in the relevant province; **[and]**
- (b) surrender the certificate of registration to the provincial head of social development for cancellation~~[.]~~; and
- (c) submit a report, as prescribed, to the provincial head of social development, which details the arrangement made for children who had been resident at the child and youth care centre.”.

Amendment of section 208 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 10 of Act 41 of 2007

86. Section 208 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:

“(2) The members of a management board are appointed by—

- (a) the **[MEC for]** provincial head of social development in the relevant province or a municipal manager, in accordance with a prescribed procedure, in the case of a child and youth care centre which is operated by the province or municipality; and
- (b) the **[registration holder]** designated child protection organisation operating a child and youth care centre, in accordance with a prescribed procedure, in the case of a privately owned child and youth care centre.”.

Amendment of section 209 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 10 of Act 41 of 2007

87. Section 209 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution in subsection (1) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words:

“(1) The **[person or]** designated child protection
organisation operating a child and youth care centre or the management
board must appoint or designate—”.

Amendment of section 211 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 10 of Act 41 of 2007

88. Section 211 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution in subsection (2) for paragraph (d) of the following paragraph:

“(d) the team not connected to the centre **[must]** may, in appropriate
cases, appoint a mentor to oversee implementation of the plan by
the management of the centre.”.

Amendment of section 213 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 10 of Act 41 of 2007

89. Section 213 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

- (a) by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1) A drop-in centre is a non-residential facility providing basic services aimed at meeting the emotional, physical and social development needs of vulnerable children.”;

- (b) by the insertion in subsection (2) after paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(aA) psychosocial support.”;

- (c) by the substitution in subsection (3) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(a) Guidance[, and counselling **[and psychosocial support]**.”;

- (d) by the insertion in subsection (3) after paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(aA) cognitive and spiritual support.”; and

- (e) by the substitution in subsection (3) for paragraph (h) of the following paragraph:

“(h) reporting and referral of children to social workers or social service **[professionals]** practitioners.”.

Amendment of section 214 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 10 of Act 41 of 2007

- 90.** Section 214 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

- (a) by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1) The Minister[, **after consultation with interested persons and the Ministers of Finance, Health, Provincial and Local Government and Transport]** must **[include in the departmental strategy a]** develop a national strategy aimed at ensuring an appropriate

spread of drop-in centres throughout the Republic, giving due consideration as provided in section 11, to children with disabilities or chronic illnesses.”; and

(b) by the insertion after subsection (1) of the following subsections:

“(1A) The Minister must consult with the Ministers of Finance, Health, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Transport and any other Minister, the MEC for social development, stakeholder or organisation that may have an interest in the matter before finalising the national strategy contemplated in subsection (1).

(1B) The national strategy contemplated in subsection (1) must be incorporated in the departmental strategy.”.

Amendment of section 215 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 10 of Act 41 of 2007

91. Section 215 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the insertion after subsection (3) of the following subsection:

“(3A) A conditionally registered drop-in centre may qualify for funding, notwithstanding only partial compliance with the prescribed national norms and standards.”;

(b) by the substitution in subsection (4) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words:

“(4) The **[funding of drop-in centres must be prioritised]** MEC for social development may prioritise the funding of drop-in centres—”; and

(c) by the substitution in subsection (4) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(a) in poverty declared wards in the province, taking into consideration the national and provincial strategies contemplated in section 77 and in communities where families lack the means of providing proper shelter, food and other basic necessities of life to their children; and”.

Amendment of section 218 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 10 of Act 41 of 2007

92. Section 218 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution in subsection (1) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words:

“(1) An application for the registration **[or conditional registration]** of a drop-in centre or for the renewal of a registration must—”.

Amendment of section 219 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 10 of Act 41 of 2007

93. Section 219 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for subsection (4) of the following subsection:

“(4) The provincial head of social development must consider a report 30 of a social service **[professional]** practitioner before deciding an application for registration[, **conditional registration**] or renewal of registration.”; and

(b) by the substitution for subsection (5) of the following subsection:

“(5) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 215(3), a provincial head of social development may assist the person or organisation operating a drop-in centre, where registration was granted with conditions, to comply with the prescribed national norms and standards contemplated in section 216 and such other requirements as may be prescribed.”.

Amendment of section 220 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 10 of Act 41 of 2007

94. The following section is hereby substituted for section 220 of the principal Act:

“[Conditional registration] Conditions relating to registration

220. (1) The registration or renewal of the registration of drop-in centres may be granted on such conditions as the provincial head of social development may determine, including **[conditions]**—

(a) conditions specifying the type of services that may or must be provided in terms of the registration;

- (b) **[stating]** the period for compliance with the **[for which the conditional registration will remain valid, and]** conditions that may be set; and
- (c) conditions providing for any other matters that may be prescribed.

[(2) A provincial head of social development may assist a drop-in centre to comply with the prescribed national norms and standards contemplated in section 216 and such other requirements as may be prescribed.]”.

Amendment of section 224 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 10 of Act 41 of 2007

95. Section 224 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (b) of the following paragraph:

- “(b) monitor drop-in centres and conduct regular inspections of **[drop-in]** such centres in the province in collaboration with the municipality where the drop-in centres are situated to enforce the provisions of this Act.”.

Amendment of section 225 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 10 of Act 41 of 2007

96. Section 225 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

- (a) by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

- “(1) The **[provincial head of] MEC** for social development may, by written agreement with a municipality, assign the performance of some or all of the functions contemplated in sections 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222 and 224 to the municipal manager, after consultation with the municipal council, if the **[provincial head of] MEC** for social development is satisfied that the municipality complies with the prescribed requirements with regard to the capacity of that municipality to perform the functions concerned.”; and
- (b) by the substitution for subsection (3) of the following subsection:
- “(3) The municipal manager referred to in subsection (1) may delegate any power or duty assigned to him or her in terms of this section to a social service **[professional] practitioner** in the employ of the municipality.”.

Amendment of section 226 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 10 of Act 41 of 2007

97. Section 226 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1) If a child is seriously injured or abused while in a drop-in centre or following an occurrence at a drop-in centre, the person operating the drop-in centre or a person employed at the drop-in centre must immediately report such injury or abuse to the provincial head of social development, who

must **[cause an investigation into the circumstances of the serious injury or abuse to be conducted]** act in accordance with the provisions of section 110(5).”.

Amendment of section 232 of Act 38 of 2005

98. Section 232 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

- (a) by the deletion in subsection (1) of the word “and” at the end of paragraph (a);
- (b) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (b) of the following paragraph:

“(b) keeping a record of fit and proper adoptive parents~~[.]~~ and”;

- (c) by the addition in subsection (1) after paragraph (b) of the following paragraph:

“(c) matching adoptable children with prospective adoptive parents.”;

- (d) by the substitution for subsection (3) of the following subsection:

“(3) The name and other identifying information of—

(a) a child must be removed, as prescribed, from RACAP if the child has been matched; or

(b) a prospective adoptive parent must be removed, as prescribed, from RACAP, if the prospective adoptive parent has been matched.”;

- (e) by the substitution in subsection (4) for paragraph (b) of the following paragraph:

“(b) the person is a citizen, or a permanent resident, **[of]** residing in the Republic.”;

- (f) by the substitution in subsection (5)(c) for subparagraph (iv) of the following subparagraph:
- “(iv) if the registered person is no longer a citizen, or permanent resident, **[of] residing in** the Republic;”;
- (g) by the substitution in subsection (5)(c) for subparagraph (v) of the following subparagraph:
- “(v) if the child contemplated in section 150 is removed from the care of that registered person; **[or]**”;
- (h) by the substitution in subsection (5)(c) for subparagraph (vi) of the following subparagraph:
- “(vi) if the registered person is convicted of an offence involving violence~~[.]~~**or**”;
- (i) by the addition in subsection (5)(c) after subparagraph (vi) of the following subparagraph:
- “(vii) if an adoption arising from the registration has been concluded.”;
- and
- (j) by the substitution in subsection (6) for paragraph (b) of the following paragraph:
- “(b) a child protection organisation or a social worker in private practice accredited in terms of section 251 to provide adoption services; or”.

Amendment of section 233 of Act 38 of 2005

- 99.** Section 233 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(a) each parent of the child, regardless of whether the parents are married or not: Provided that, if the parent is a child, that child-parent is assisted by his or her parent or guardian to make such decision, unless such assistance is dispensed with by the children’s court with due regard to the best interests of the adoptable child and the child-parent;”; and

(b) by the substitution for subsection (8) of the following subsection:

“(8) A person referred to in subsection (1) who has consented to the adoption of the child may withdraw the consent within 60 days after having signed the consent, after which the consent is final, irrespective of the period of any delay in finalising the adoption.”.

Amendment of section 234 of Act 38 of 2005

100. Section 234 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution in subsection (1) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words:

“(1) The parent, **[or]** guardian or a family member of a child may, before or during an application for the adoption of a child is made in terms of section 239, enter into a post-adoption agreement with a prospective adoptive parent of that child to provide for—”; and

(b) by the substitution for subsection (4) of the following subsection:

“(4) A court may, when granting an application in terms of section 239 for the adoption of a child—
(a) confirm a post-adoption agreement if it is in the best interest of a child; or
(b) direct that the parties consider a post-adoption agreement, including through mediation if necessary.”.

Amendment of section 236 of Act 38 of 2005

101. Section 236 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(a) is incompetent to give consent due to mental illness or a mental health disability as supported by a report from a suitably qualified person in accordance with the Mental Health Care Act, 2002 (Act No. 17 of 2002);”;

(b) by the deletion in subsection (3) of the word “or” at the end of paragraph (b);

(c) by the substitution in subsection (3) for paragraph (c) of the following paragraph:

“(c) the court, following an allegation by the mother of a child, finds on a balance of probabilities that the child was conceived as a result of the rape of the mother: Provided that such a finding shall not constitute a conviction for the crime of rape[.]; or”; and

(d) by the addition in subsection (3) after paragraph (c) of the following paragraph:

“(d) the court, following an allegation by the mother of the child, finds on a balance of probabilities that the child was conceived as a result of the mother being a victim of human trafficking: Provided that such a finding shall not constitute a conviction for human trafficking.”.

Amendment of section 239 of Act 38 of 2005

102. Section 239 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (b) of the following paragraph:

“(b) be accompanied by a report, in the prescribed format, by **[an adoption]** a social worker responsible for adoption, containing—”;

(b) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (d) of the following paragraph:

“(d) be accompanied by a letter **[by]** from the provincial head of social development **[recommending]** confirming compliance with the requirements for the adoption of the child in terms of this Act; and”;
and

(c) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (e) of the following paragraph:

“(e) contain such **[prescribed]** particulars as may be determined in terms this Act.”.

Amendment of section 243 of Act 38 of 2005

103. Section 243 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

- (a) by the substitution in subsection (1) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words:

“(1) A High Court or children’s court may rescind an adoption order on application made terms of the relevant rules of the court”.

- (b) by the deletion in subsection (4) of the word “and” at the end of paragraph (c);
and
(c) by the insertion in subsection (4) after paragraph (c) of the following paragraphs:

“(cA) the adoption registrar contemplated in section 247;

(cB) the relevant provincial head of social development;”.

Deletion of section 249 of Act 38 of 2005

- 104.** Section 249(2)(a) - (g) of the principal Act is hereby deleted.

Amendment of section 250 of Act 38 of 2005, as inserted by section 11 of Act 41 of 2007

- 105.** Section 250 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

- (a) by the substitution for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words:

“**[(1)]** No person may provide adoption services, except—”;

- (b) by the deletion in subsection (1) of the word “or” at the end of paragraph (c);
(c) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (d) of the following paragraph:

“(d) a child protection organisation accredited in terms of section 259 to provide inter-country adoption service[.]; and”;

(d) by the addition in subsection (1) after paragraph (d) of the following paragraph:

“(e) a social worker employed by the Department or a provincial department of social development who provides adoption services.”; and

(e) by the deletion of subsections (2) and (3).

Amendment of section 251 of Act 38 of 2005

106. Section 251 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the insertion after subsection (1) of the following subsections:

“(1A) The Director-General may, in the form and manner prescribed, withdraw an accreditation to provide adoption services.

(1B) The Director-General must strengthen the monitoring of child protection organisations and any person providing adoption services in a prescribed manner.”.

Amendment of section 252 of Act 38 of 2005

107. Section 252 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution in subsection (2) for paragraph (b) of the following paragraph:

“(b) [an advertisement] a notice by a [child protection organisation accredited to provide adoption services] social worker responsible for adoption for purposes of recruitment of prospective adoptive parents, according to prescribed guidelines;”; and

(b) by the substitution in subsection (2) for paragraph (c) of the following paragraph:

“(c) other forms of [advertisements] notices specified by regulation.”.

Amendment of section 253 of Act 38 of 2005

108. Section 253 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for paragraph € of the following paragraph:

(c) “(e) prescribing the requirements that a child [welfare] protection organisation [has to] must comply with in order to obtain [for] accreditation as contemplated in section 251 to provide adoption services;”) by the substitution for paragraph (f) of the following paragraph:

“(f) prescribing the requirements that a child [welfare] protection organisation has to comply with [for] in order to obtain accreditation as contemplated in section 259 to provide inter-country adoption services;”; and

(c) by the substitution for paragraph (g) of the following paragraph:

“(g) prescribing [advertising] guidelines for [recruitment purposes] the notice to recruit prospective adoptive parents; and”.

Amendment of section 258 of Act 38 of 2005

109. Section 258 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution in subsection (2) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words:

“(2) Any powers or duties of the Central Authority of the Republic in terms of Articles 15 to 21 of the **[Convention]** Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption and sections 261(2), (3) and (4), 262(2), (3) and (4), 264(2) and (3), and 265(2) and (3) may, to the extent determined by the Central Authority of the Republic, be performed by—”.

Amendment of section 259 of Act 38 of 2005

110. Section 259 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution in subsection (1) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words:

“The Central Authority of the Republic may, on application by a child protection organisation—”;

(b) by the deletion of subsection (3);

(c) by the insertion after subsection (3) of the following subsection:

“(3A) The Central Authority of the Republic may, in the form and manner as prescribed, withdraw an accreditation to provide inter-country adoption services.”; and

(d) by the deletion of subsection (4).

Amendment of section 260 of Act 38 of 2005

111. Section 260 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1) A child protection organisation accredited in terms of section 259 to provide inter-country adoption services may enter into an adoption working agreement with a recognised organisation or an accredited adoption agency in another country.”;

(b) by the substitution in subsection (2) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(a) must provide the Central Authority of the Republic with certified copies of all adoption working agreements entered into by that child protection organisation for approval thereof; and”;

(c) by the addition after subsection (2) of the following subsection:

“(3) The Central Authority of the Republic may enter into an adoption working agreement with the central authority of another convention country.”.

Amendment of section 261 of Act 38 of 2005

112. Section 261 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:

“(2) If the central authority of the convention country concerned is satisfied that the applicant is fit and proper to adopt, it **[shall]** must prepare a report on that person in accordance with the requirements of the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption and any prescribed requirements and transmit the report to the Central Authority of the Republic.”;

(b) by the substitution for subsection (3) of the following subsection:

“(3) If an adoptable child is available for inter-country adoption, the Central Authority of the Republic **[will]** must prepare a report on the child in accordance with the requirements of the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption and any prescribed requirements and forward it to the central authority of the convention country concerned.”;

(c) by the substitution for subsection (4) of the following subsection:

“(4) If the Central Authority of the Republic and the central authority of the convention country concerned both agree on the adoption, the Central Authority of the Republic **[will]** must refer the application for adoption together with all relevant documents and the reports contemplated in subsections (2) and (3) to the children's court for consideration in terms of section 240.”;

(d) by the substitution in subsection (5) for paragraph (e) of the following paragraph:

“(e) the central authority of the convention country has agreed to the adoption of the child and has not withdrawn consent.”;

(e) by the substitution in subsection (5) for paragraph (f) of the following paragraph:

“(f) the Central Authority of the Republic has agreed to the adoption of the child and has not withdrawn consent; and”;

(f) by the substitution for subsection (6) of the following subsection:

“(6) **[(a)]** The Central Authority of the Republic may withdraw its consent to the adoption of the child **[within a period of 140 days from the date on which it has consented to the adoption]** at any time before the order for adoption is granted by the court, if it is in the best interests of the child to do so.”;

(g) by the deletion in subsection (6) of paragraph (b);

(h) by the deletion of subsections (7), (8) and (9); and

(i) by the addition after subsection (9) of the following subsection:

“(10) An application for the adoption of a child—

(a) habitually resident in the Republic by a family member resident in a convention country must be dealt with, in the prescribed form and manner, as an inter-country adoption; or

(b) by a person who will become an adoptive parent jointly with the child's biological parent must be dealt with, in the prescribed form and manner, as an inter-country adoption:

Provided that the Central Authority of the Republic may dispense with one or more of the formal requirements of inter-country adoption if it is in the best interests of the child.”.

Amendment of section 262 of Act 38 of 2005

113. Section 262 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:

“(2) If the competent authority of the non-convention country concerned is satisfied that the applicant is fit and proper to adopt, it **[shall] must** prepare a report on that person in accordance with the prescribed requirements and transmit the report to the Central Authority in the Republic.”;

(b) by the substitution for subsection (3) of the following subsection:

“(3) If an adoptable child is available for inter-country adoption, the Central Authority of the Republic **[will] must** prepare a report on the child in accordance with the prescribed requirements and transmit it to the competent authority in the non-convention country concerned.”;

(c) by the substitution for subsection (4) of the following subsection:

“(4) If the Central Authority of the Republic and the competent authority in the non-convention country concerned both agree to the adoption, the Central Authority of the Republic **[will] must** refer the application for adoption together with all relevant documents and the reports contemplated in subsections (2) and (3) to the children's court for consideration in terms of section 240.”;

(d) by the substitution in subsection (5) for paragraph (e) of the following paragraph:

- “(e) the competent authority of the non-convention country concerned has agreed to the adoption of the child and has not withdrawn consent.”;
- (e) by the substitution in subsection (5) for paragraph (f) of the following paragraph:
- “(f) the Central Authority of the Republic has agreed to the adoption of the child and has not withdrawn consent; and”;
- (f) by the substitution for subsection (6) of the following subsection:
- “(6) **[(a)]** The Central Authority of the Republic may withdraw its consent to the adoption of the child **[within a period of 140 days from the date on which it has consented to the adoption]** at any time before the order for adoption is granted by the court, if it is in the best interests of the child to do so.”;
- (g) by the deletion in subsection (6) of paragraph (b);
- (h) by the deletion of subsection (7);
- (i) by the substitution for subsection (8) of the following subsection:
- “(8) The adoption of a child ordinarily resident in the Republic—
- (a) by a family member of that child resident in a non-convention country; or
- (b) by a person who may become an adoptive parent jointly with the child's biological parent.
- must be dealt with in the prescribed form and manner as an inter-country adoption: Provided that the Central Authority of the Republic may dispense with one or more of the formal requirements of inter-country

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adoption if it is in the best interests of the child concerned in the context of
a specific case.”; and

- (j) by the deletion of subsection (9).

Amendment of section 263 of Act 38 of 2005

114. The following section is hereby substituted for section 263 of the principal Act:

“Issue of adoption compliance certificate

263. If the children’s court has approved the adoption of a child in terms of section 261 or 262, the Central Authority of the Republic **[may]** must issue an adoption compliance certificate.”.

Amendment of section 264 of Act 38 of 2005

115. Section 264 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

- (a) by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1) A person habitually resident in the Republic who wishes to adopt a child habitually resident in a convention country must apply to the Central Authority of the Republic.”;

- (b) by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:

“(2) If the Central Authority of the Republic is satisfied that the applicant is fit and proper to adopt, it **[shall]** must prepare a report on

that person in accordance with the requirements of the Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption and any prescribed requirements and transmit the report to the central authority of the convention country concerned.”;

(c) by the substitution for subsection (3) of the following subsection:

“(3) If an adoptable child is available for adoption, the central authority of the convention country concerned **[shall] must** prepare a report on the child in accordance with the requirements of the Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption and transmit it to the Central Authority of the Republic.”; and

(d) by the substitution for subsection (4) of the following subsection:

“(4) If the Central Authority of the Republic and the central authority of the convention country concerned both agree to the adoption, the central authority in that country **[will] must** refer the application for adoption for the necessary consent in that country.”.

Amendment of section 265 of Act 38 of 2005

116. Section 265 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1) A person habitually resident in the Republic who wishes to adopt a child habitually resident in a non-convention country must apply to the Central Authority of the Republic.”;

(b) by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:

“(2) If the Central Authority of the Republic is satisfied that the applicant is fit and proper to adopt, it **[shall] must** prepare a report on that person in accordance with the requirements of the non-convention country concerned and transmit the report to the competent authority of that country.”;

(c) by the substitution for subsection (3) of the following subsection:

“(3) If an adoptable child is available for adoption, the competent authority of the non-convention country concerned **[shall] must** prepare a report on the child in accordance with the prescribed requirements and transmit it to the Central Authority of the Republic.”; and

(d) by the substitution for subsection (4) of the following subsection:

“(4) If the Central Authority of the Republic and the competent authority of the non-convention country concerned both agree to the adoption, the competent authority of that country **[will] must** refer the application for adoption for the necessary consent in that country.”.

Amendment of section 266 of Act 38 of 2005

117. Section 266 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1) The adoption in a convention country of a child habitually resident in that convention country by a person habitually resident in the Republic **[shall] must** be recognised in the Republic if an

adoption compliance certificate issued in that country is in force for the adoption.”;

(b) by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:

“(2) The adoption in a convention country of a child habitually resident in that convention country by a person habitually resident in another convention country **[shall]** must be recognised in the Republic if an adoption compliance certificate issued in the convention country where the adoption was granted is in force for the adoption.”;

(c) by the substitution for subsection (3) of the following subsection:

“(3) If an adoption compliance certificate was not issued in the relevant convention country, the Central Authority of the Republic may issue a declaration, in the prescribed form and manner, recognising the adoption.”;

(d) by the substitution for subsection (5) of the following subsection:

“(5) The adoption of a child referred to in subsections (1) and (2) **[shall]** may not be recognised if a declaration is made in terms of section 270 that an adoption or a decision in terms of article 27 of the Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption has no effect in the Republic.”; and

(e) by the insertion after subsection (5) of the following subsection:

“(6) The adoption order made in another country may be recognised in the Republic, irrespective of whether the adopted child is an adult at the time of application for recognition: Provided that the adoption

is in accordance with and has not been rescinded under the law of the country in which the adoption order was made.”.

Amendment of section 268 of Act 38 of 2005

118. The following section is hereby substituted for section 268 of the principal Act:

“Recognition of inter-country adoption of child from non-convention country

268. (1) The Central Authority of the Republic may issue a declaration, in the prescribed form and manner, recognising the adoption of a child in a non-convention country if—

- (a) the adoption is in accordance with and has not been rescinded under the law of the country in which the adoption order was made; and
- (b) the adoption in that country has the same effect it would have had if the order had been made in the Republic.

(2) The adoption in a non-convention country of a child habitually resident in that country by a person habitually resident in another non-convention country must be recognised in the Republic if a confirmation letter was issued in the non-convention country where the adoption order was granted and the confirmation letter was received and registered by the Central Authority of the Republic.”.

Amendment of section 271 of Act 38 of 2005

119. Section 271 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the insertion after subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1A) A child must be returned, in the prescribed manner, to the country of origin if an adoption application contemplated in section (1) is refused by a children’s court.”; and

(b) by the addition after subsection (2) of the following subsection:

“(3) Where guardianship of a child has been granted by a convention country or non-convention country, and such guardianship is not recognised as an adoption by the Central Authority of the Republic, such a case must be referred to a competent court for determination.”.

Insertion of section 278A in Act 38 of 2005

120. The following section is hereby inserted in the principal Act after section 278:

“Conclusion of proceedings

278A. (1) An application under this Chapter, for the return of a child, must be brought by an urgent application lodged in the relevant division of the High Court and must, as far as practicable, be concluded within six weeks from the date of filing the application.

(2) In the event of an appeal against the decision of a High Court in an application for the return of a child, such appeal must, as far as practicable, be concluded within six weeks from the date of filing the appeal.

(3)(a) A court may only consider the postponement of an application for the return of a child taking into consideration the best interest of the child.

(b) The onus to proof that the best interest of the child exist and that the postponement of an application, referred to in paragraph (a), is justifiable for the period requested, rests with the party requesting the postponement.”.

(3) In the even where a child is repatriated the department must consult the Department of Home Affairs and the boarder management authority.

Amendment of section 279 of Act 38 of 2005

121. The following section is hereby substituted for section 279 of the principal Act:

“Legal representation

279. (1) A legal representative must represent the child [**, subject to section 55,**] in all applications in terms of the Hague Convention on International Child Abduction.

(2) Upon issuing of the application by the Registrar the Central Authority of the Republic must bring the application to the attention of the relevant division of the High Court for the appointment of a legal representative for that child.”.

Amendment of section 292 of Act 38 of 2005

122. Section 292 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (c) of the following paragraph:

“(c) at least one of the commissioning parents, or where the commissioning parent is a single person, that person, is at the time of entering into the agreement **[domiciled]** ordinarily resident in the Republic;”;

(b) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (d) of the following paragraph:

“(d) the surrogate mother and her husband or partner, if any, are at the time of entering into the agreement **[domiciled]** ordinarily resident in the Republic; and”;

(c) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (e) of the following paragraph:

“(e) the agreement is confirmed by the High Court within whose area of jurisdiction the commissioning parent or parents are **[domiciled or habitually]** ordinarily resident.”.

Amendment of section 295 of Act 38 of 2005

123. Section 295 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution in paragraph (b) for subparagraph (ii) of the following subparagraph:

- “(ii) are in all respects, including health and age, suitable persons to accept the parenthood of the child that is to be conceived; and”;
- (b) by the substitution in paragraph (c) for subparagraph (ii) of the following subparagraph:
- “(ii) is in all respects, including health and age, a suitable person to act as surrogate mother;”;
- (c) by the deletion in paragraph (c) of subparagraphs (vi) and (vii);
- (d) by the deletion of the word “and” at the end of paragraph (d); and
- (e) by the insertion after paragraph (d) of the following paragraph:
- “(dA) the agreement is accompanied by—
- (i) a report from a psychologist containing a psychosocial assessment of all parties to the agreement;
- (ii) in the case of an agency, an affidavit by such agency describing details, which include the—
- (aa) business of the agency;
- (bb) agency’s involvement relating to the surrogate mother; and
- (cc) manner in which information was obtained by the agency relating to the surrogate mother;
- (iii) information of any previous confirmed surrogate motherhood agreements or pending matters in court and the status of such matters;

- (iv) a medical report regarding the surrogate mother, which must include details as to whether the proposed surrogacy poses any medical risk for her or the child;
- (v) an indication of the circumstances under which the commissioning parents and the surrogate mother met and the reasons for the surrogate mother's willingness to act as surrogate;
- (vi) an indication of the circumstances of the surrogate mother including her financial position;
- (vii) details and proof of payment of any compensation for services rendered as contemplated in section 301(2) and (3) of this Act;
- (viii) copies of all agreements between the surrogate mother and any intermediary or any other person who is involved in the process; and
- (ix) an exposition of estimated costs pertaining to health insurance and life insurance relating to the surrogate mother; and".

Amendment of section 297 of Act 38 of 2005

124. Section 297 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (e) of the following paragraph:

“(e) subject to sections [292] 298 and [293] 299, the surrogate motherhood agreement may not be terminated after the artificial fertilisation of the surrogate mother has taken place; and”.

Insertion of section 303A in Act 38 of 2005

125. The following section is hereby inserted in the principal Act after section 303:

“Regulations

303A. The Minister may, in consultation with the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Minister of Home Affairs and the Minister of Health, make regulations regarding any matter necessary to facilitate the implementation of this Chapter, including the requirements to be complied with by any person involved in surrogacy.”.

Amendment of section 304 of Act 38 of 2005, as amended by section 12 of Act No 41 of 2007

126. Section 304 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for the heading of the following heading:

“Inspection of child and youth care centre, partial care facility[, shelter] and drop-in centre”;

- (b) by the substitution in subsection (1) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words:

“(1) A person authorised by the Director-General, a provincial head of social development or a municipality may enter any child and youth care centre, partial care facility[, **shelter**] or drop-in centre or any place which on reasonable suspicion is being used as an unregistered child and youth care centre, partial care facility[, **shelter**] or drop-in centre, in order—”;

- (c) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(a) to inspect that centre, facility[, **shelter**] or place and its management; or”;

- (d) by the substitution in subsection (2) for paragraph (b) of the following paragraph:

“(b) When inspecting such a centre, facility[, **shelter**] or place, a person authorised in terms of subsection (1) must, on demand, produce such an identity card.”; and

- (e) by the substitution in subsection (3) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(a) determine whether the centre, facility[, **shelter**] or place complies with—

- (i) the prescribed national norms and standards referred to in section 79, 194 or 216 applicable to it;
- (ii) other national norms and standards as may be prescribed by regulation;

- (iii) any structural, safety, health and other requirements as may be required by any law; and
- (iv) the provisions of this Act;”.

Amendment of section 305 of Act 38 of 2005, as amended by section 13 of Act 41 of 2007 and section 48 of Act 7 of 2013

127. Section 305 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for the heading of the following heading:

“Offences and penalties”;

(b) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (b) of the following paragraph:

“(b) contravenes a provision of section 6A, 32(4), **[74,]** 116(1), 123(1), (2) or (3), 127, 133(1), 249, 250(1), 252, 273, 301, 302 or 303;”;

(c) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (f) of the following paragraph:

“(f) fails to comply with section 80(1), 95(1), 197**[(1)]** or 217(1) after that person has been instructed by way of a notice of enforcement in terms of section 85, 100, 204 or 222 to comply with the relevant section;”;

(d) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (q) of the following paragraph:

“(q) contravenes or fails to comply with an order of a High Court, **[Divorce Court]** regional court in a divorce case and children’s court issued in terms of this Act, including section 153(6), or

contravenes or fails to comply with any condition contained in such order.”; and

(e) by the substitution in subsection (2) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(a) operates or assists in any way in operating a partial care facility, child and youth care centre[, **shelter**] or drop-in centre;”.

Amendment of section 306 of Act 38 of 2005, as amended by section 14 of Act 41 of 2007

128. Section 306 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(a) any matter referred to in sections 41A, 90, 103, 142, 149A, 160, 179, 190, 212, 227, 253, **[and]** 280 and 303A;”;

(a) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (b) of the following paragraph:

“(b) any matter that may be prescribed by the Minister in terms of the Act, after consultation with the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development **[where courts, court orders and the review of decisions by the courts are regulated]**.”.

(b) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (c) of the following paragraph:

“(c) codes of ethical practice for persons operating and assisting in the operation of child and youth care centres, partial care facilities[, **shelters**] and drop-in centres;”;

- (c) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (d) of the following paragraph:
- “(d) procedures for the interview of persons to be employed or engaged in child and youth care centres, partial care facilities[, **shelters**] and drop-in centres;”;
- (d) by the substitution in subsection (2)(a) for subparagraph (iii) of the following subparagraph:
- “(iii) generally to all child and youth care centres, partial care facilities[, **shelters**] or drop-in centres or to a category of such centres, facilities[, **shelters**] or drop-in centres; or”; and
- (e) by the substitution in subsection (2)(b) for subparagraph (iii) of the following subparagraph:
- “(iii) child and youth care centres, partial care facilities[, **shelters**] or drop-in centres or categories of such centres, facilities[, **shelters**] or drop-in centres.”.

Amendment of section 312 of Act 38 of 2005

129. Section 312 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

- (a) by the insertion after subsection (1) of the following subsection:
- “(1A) The MEC for social development may, subject to any provincial strategic plan, enter into an agreement with a designated child protection organisation or other appropriate person, for the provision of any service

that may or must be provided in terms of this Act, by such organisation or person on an agency basis in the relevant province.”; and

(b) by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:

“(2) The Minister or MEC for social development, as the case may be, may delegate to such organisation or person such powers and duties in terms of this Act as may be required for the proper performance of the service.”.

Short title and commencement

130. This Act is called the Children’s Amendment Act, 2025 and comes into operation on a date determined by the President by proclamation in the *Gazette*.