

**TITLE 17-A
MAINE CRIMINAL CODE**

**CHAPTER 11
SEXUAL ASSAULTS**

§251. Definitions and general provisions

1. In this chapter the following definitions apply.

A. "Spouse" means a person legally married to the actor, but does not include a legally married person living apart from the actor under a defacto separation.

B.

C. "Sexual act" means:

(1) Any act between 2 persons involving direct physical contact between the genitals of one and the mouth or anus of the other, or direct physical contact between the genitals of one and the genitals of the other;

(2) Any act between a person and an animal being used by another person which act involves direct physical contact between the genitals of one and the mouth or anus of the other, or direct physical contact between the genitals of one and the genitals of the other; or

(3) Any act involving direct physical contact between the genitals or anus of one and an instrument or device manipulated by another person when that act is done for the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire or for the purpose of causing bodily injury or offensive physical contact.

A sexual act may be proved without allegation or proof of penetration.

D. "Sexual contact" means any touching of the genitals or anus, directly or through clothing, other than as would constitute a sexual act, for the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire or for the purpose of causing bodily injury or offensive physical contact.

E. "Compulsion" means the use of physical force, a threat to use physical force or a combination thereof that makes a person unable to physically repel the actor or produces in that person a reasonable fear that death, serious bodily injury or kidnapping might be imminently inflicted upon that person or another human being.

"Compulsion" as defined in this paragraph places no duty upon the victim to resist the actor.

F. "Safe children zone" means on or within 1,000 feet of the real property comprising a public or private elementary or secondary school or on or within 1,000 feet of the real property comprising a day care center licensed pursuant to Title 22, section 8301-A.

G. "Sexual touching" means any touching of the breasts, buttocks, groin or inner thigh, directly or through clothing, for the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire.

§261. Prohibited contact with a minor; sex offender restricted zone

1. A person is guilty of prohibited contact with a minor if that person:

A. Was convicted on or after June 30, 1992 of an offense under this chapter or chapter 12 against another person who had not in fact attained 14 years of age or was convicted on or after June 30, 1992 in another jurisdiction for conduct substantially similar to that contained in this chapter or chapter 12 against another person who had not in fact attained 14 years of age; and

B.

C. Intentionally or knowingly initiates direct or indirect contact with another person who has not in fact attained 14 years of age.

Violation of this subsection is a Class E crime.

2. A person is guilty of prohibited contact with a minor in a sex offender restricted zone if that person:

A. Was convicted on or after June 30, 1992 of an offense under this chapter or chapter 12 against another person who had not in fact attained 14 years of age or was convicted on or after June 30, 1992 in another jurisdiction for conduct substantially similar to that contained in this chapter or chapter 12 against another person who had not in fact attained 14 years of age; and

B.

C. Intentionally or knowingly initiates direct or indirect contact in a sex offender restricted zone with another person who has not in fact attained 14 years of age.

Violation of this subsection is a Class D crime.

3. It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this section that the parent, foster parent, guardian or other similar person responsible for the person who had not in fact attained 14 years of age, knowing the conviction status described in subsections 1 and 2, gave consent that the defendant initiate, have or continue direct or indirect contact. It is also an affirmative defense to prosecution under this section that any contact is incidental to and directly related to the defendant's employment.

4. For purposes of this section, "sex offender restricted zone" means the real property comprising a public or private elementary or middle school; the real property comprising a child care center, a child care facility, a day care operated by a family child care provider, a nursery school or a small child care facility as defined under Title 22, section 8301-A; or an athletic field, park, playground, recreational facility, youth camp licensed under Title 22, section 2495 or other place where children are the primary users.

5. For purposes of this section, "indirect contact" includes, but is not limited to, a person photographing another person who has not in fact attained 14 years of age after the person's having been notified, in writing or otherwise, by a law enforcement officer, corrections officer or judicial officer not to engage in that conduct. The notification not to engage in that conduct expires one year after the date the notification is given. For purposes of this subsection, "photographing" means making, capturing, generating or saving a print, negative, slide, motion picture, computer data file, videotape or other mechanically, electronically or chemically reproduced visual image or material.

CHAPTER 12 SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF MINORS

§281. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. "Disseminate" means to manufacture, publish, send, promulgate, distribute, exhibit, issue, furnish, sell or transfer or to offer or agree to do any of these acts.

2. "Minor" means a person who has not attained 18 years of age.

3. "Photograph" means to make, capture, generate or save a print, negative, slide, motion picture, computer data file, videotape or other mechanically, electronically or chemically reproduced visual image or material.

4. "Sexually explicit conduct" means any of the following acts:

A. A sexual act;

B. Bestiality;

C. Masturbation;

D. Sadomasochistic abuse for the purpose of sexual stimulation;

E. Lewd exhibition of the genitals, anus or pubic area of a person. An exhibition is considered lewd if the exhibition is designed for the purpose of eliciting or attempting to elicit a sexual response in the intended viewer; or

F. Conduct that creates the appearance of the acts in paragraphs A to D and also exhibits any uncovered or covered portions of the genitals, anus or pubic area.

§282. Sexual exploitation of minor

1. A person is guilty of sexual exploitation of a minor if:

A. Knowing or intending that the conduct will be photographed, the person intentionally or knowingly employs, solicits, entices, persuades or uses another person, not that person's spouse, who has not in fact attained 16 years of age, to engage in sexually explicit conduct, except that it is not a violation of this paragraph if the other person is 14 or 15 years of age and the person is less than 5 years older than the other person. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime;

A-1. Knowing or intending that the conduct will be photographed, the person intentionally or knowingly compels or induces by any threat another person, not that person's spouse, who is in fact a minor, to engage in sexually explicit conduct. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime;

B. The person violates paragraph A or A-1 and, at the time of the offense, the person has one or more prior convictions under this section or for engaging in substantially similar conduct to that contained in this section in another jurisdiction. Violation of this paragraph is a Class A crime;

C. The person violates paragraph A or A-1 and the minor has not in fact attained 12 years of age. Violation of this paragraph is a Class A crime;

D. Being a parent, legal guardian or other person having care or custody of another person who has not in fact attained 16 years of age, that person knowingly or intentionally permits that person who has not in fact attained 16 years of age to engage in sexually explicit conduct, knowing or intending that the conduct will be photographed. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime;

E. The person violates paragraph D and, at the time of the offense, the person has one or more prior convictions under this section or for engaging in substantially similar conduct to that contained in this section in another jurisdiction. Violation of this paragraph is a Class A crime; or

F. The person violates paragraph D and the minor has not in fact attained 12 years of age. Violation of this paragraph is a Class A crime.

2. The following mandatory minimum terms of imprisonment apply to sexual exploitation of a minor.

A. A court shall impose upon a person convicted under subsection 1, paragraph A, A-1 or D a sentencing alternative involving a term of imprisonment of at least 5 years.

B. A court shall impose upon a person convicted under subsection 1, paragraph B or E a sentencing alternative involving a term of imprisonment of at least 10 years.

The court may not suspend a minimum term of imprisonment imposed under this section unless it sets forth in detail, in writing, the reasons for suspending the sentence. The court shall consider the nature and circumstances of the crime, the physical and mental well-being of the minor and the history and character of the defendant and may only suspend the minimum term if the court is of the opinion that the exceptional features of the case justify the imposition of another sentence. Section 9-A governs the use of prior convictions when determining a sentence.

3. Aggravating sentencing factor of victim under 12 years of age. If the State pleads and proves that a crime under this section was committed against an individual who had not attained 12 years of age, the court, in determining the appropriate sentence, shall treat the age of the victim as an aggravating sentencing factor.

§283. Dissemination of sexually explicit material

1. A person is guilty of dissemination of sexually explicit material if:

A. The person intentionally or knowingly disseminates or possesses with intent to disseminate any book, magazine, newspaper, print, negative, slide, motion picture, videotape, computer data file or other mechanically, electronically or chemically reproduced visual image or material that depicts any person who has not in fact attained 16 years of age who the person knows or has reason to know is a person under 16 years of age engaging in sexually explicit conduct, except that it is not a violation of this paragraph if the person depicted is 14 or 15 years of age and the person is less than 5 years older than the person depicted. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime;

B. The person violates paragraph A and, at the time of the offense, has one or more prior convictions under this section or for engaging in substantially similar conduct to that contained in this section in another jurisdiction. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime;

C. The person intentionally or knowingly disseminates or possesses with intent to disseminate any book, magazine, newspaper, print, negative, slide, motion picture, videotape, computer data file or other mechanically, electronically or chemically reproduced visual image or material that depicts any minor who is less than 12 years of age who the person knows or has reason to know is a minor less than 12 years of age engaging in sexually explicit conduct. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime; or

D. The person violates paragraph C and, at the time of the offense, has one or more prior convictions under this section or for engaging in substantially similar conduct to that contained in this section in another jurisdiction. Violation of this paragraph is a Class A crime.

Section 9-A governs the use of prior convictions when determining a sentence.

2. For the purposes of this section, possession of 10 or more copies of any of the materials as described in subsection 1 gives rise to a permissible inference under the Maine Rules of Evidence, Rule 303 that the person possesses those items with intent to disseminate.

3. For purposes of this section, any element of age of the person depicted means the age of the person at the time the sexually explicit conduct occurred, not the age of the person depicted at the time of dissemination or possession of the sexually explicit visual image or material.

§284. Possession of sexually explicit material

1. A person is guilty of possession of sexually explicit material if that person:

A. Intentionally or knowingly transports, exhibits, purchases, possesses or accesses with intent to view any book, magazine, newspaper, print, negative, slide, motion picture, computer data file, videotape or other mechanically, electronically or chemically reproduced visual image or material that the person knows or should know depicts another person engaging in sexually explicit conduct, and:

- (1) The other person has not in fact attained 16 years of age; or
- (2) The person knows or has reason to know that the other person has not attained 16 years of age.

It is not a violation of this paragraph if the person depicted is 14 or 15 years of age and the person is less than 5 years older than the person depicted.

Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime;

B. Violates paragraph A and, at the time of the offense, has one or more prior convictions under this section or for engaging in substantially similar conduct to that contained in this section in another jurisdiction. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime;

C. Intentionally or knowingly transports, exhibits, purchases, possesses or accesses with intent to view any book, magazine, newspaper, print, negative, slide, motion picture, computer data file, videotape or other mechanically, electronically or chemically reproduced visual image or material that the person knows or should know depicts another person engaging in sexually explicit conduct, and:

- (1) The other person has not in fact attained 12 years of age; or
- (2) The person knows or has reason to know that the other person has not attained 12 years of age.

Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; or

D. Violates paragraph C and, at the time of the offense, has one or more prior convictions under this section or for engaging in substantially similar conduct to that contained in this section in another jurisdiction. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime.

Section 9-A governs the use of prior convictions when determining a sentence.

2. It is a defense to a prosecution under this section that the person depicted was the spouse of the person possessing the sexually explicit material at the time the material was produced.

3. The age of the person depicted and that the person depicted is an actual person may be reasonably inferred from the depiction. Competent medical evidence or other expert testimony may be used to establish the age and authenticity of the person depicted.

4. Any material that depicts a person who has not attained 16 years of age engaging in sexually explicit conduct is declared to be contraband and may be seized by the State.

5. For purposes of this section, any element of age of the person depicted means the age of the person at the time the sexually explicit conduct occurred, not the age of the person depicted at the time of the transporting, exhibiting, purchasing, possession or accessing of the sexually explicit visual image or material.

§285. Forfeiture of equipment used to facilitate violations

1. Upon a finding of guilt of any violation of this chapter, but prior to sentencing, an attorney for the State may, in writing, move the court for an order requiring the forfeiture to the State of any equipment, including computers, that may have facilitated the commission of the offense. Notice of the motion must be made by the State to the defendant and any party of interest; this notice must be done by registered mail.

2. If contesting the forfeiture, the defendant or other party-in-interest in the in rem civil forfeiture proceeding may request a jury trial. Absent that request, the proceeding must be before the court.

3. At the jury trial or court hearing, the State has the burden of proving to the fact finder by a preponderance of the evidence that the equipment was used in violation of this chapter.

4. Upon a finding by a preponderance of the evidence that the equipment was used to facilitate the commission of a violation of this chapter, the court shall order the equipment forfeited and may, upon the written recommendation of the attorney for the State, provide in its order for the disposition or use of the equipment by any state, county or municipal law enforcement agency that made a substantial contribution to the investigation or prosecution of the case. Any equipment forfeited that is not transferred to an investigating or prosecuting agency must be sold and the proceeds deposited in the General Fund.

5. The Attorney General may adopt by rule guidelines regulating the disposition and use of property forfeited or sought for forfeiture under this section. Rules adopted under this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

TITLE 19-A DOMESTIC RELATIONS

CHAPTER 55 RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

§1653. Parental rights and responsibilities

1. **Legislative findings and purpose.** The Legislature makes the following findings concerning relationships among family members in determining what is in the best interest of children.

A. The Legislature finds and declares as public policy that encouraging mediated resolutions of disputes between parents is in the best interest of minor children.

B. The Legislature finds that domestic abuse is a serious crime against the individual and society, producing an unhealthy and dangerous family environment, resulting in a pattern of escalating abuse, including violence, that frequently culminates in intrafamily homicide and creating an atmosphere that is not conducive to healthy childhood development.

C. The Legislature finds and declares that, except when a court determines that the best interest of a child would not be served, it is the public policy of this State to assure minor children of frequent and continuing contact with both parents after the parents have separated or dissolved their marriage and to encourage parents to share the rights and responsibilities of child rearing in order to effect this policy.

2. **Parental rights and responsibilities; order.** This subsection governs parental rights and responsibilities and court orders for parental rights and responsibilities.

A. When the parents have agreed to an award of shared parental rights and responsibilities or so agree in open court, the court shall make that award unless there is substantial evidence that it should not be ordered. The court shall state in its decision the reasons for not ordering a shared parental rights and responsibilities award agreed to by the parents.

B. The court may award reasonable rights of contact with a minor child to a 3rd person.

C. The court may award parental rights and responsibilities with respect to the child to a 3rd person, a suitable society or institution for the care and protection of children or the department, upon a finding that awarding parental rights and responsibilities to either or both parents will place the child in jeopardy as defined in Title 22, section 4002, subsection 6.

D. The order of the court awarding parental rights and responsibilities must include the following:

- (1) Allocated parental rights and responsibilities, shared parental rights and responsibilities or sole parental rights and responsibilities, according to the best interest of the child as provided in subsection 3. An award of shared parental rights and responsibilities may include either an allocation of the child's primary residential care to one parent and rights of parent-child contact to the other parent, or a sharing of the child's primary residential care by both parents. If either or both parents request an award of shared primary residential care and the court does not award shared primary residential care of the child, the court shall state in its decision the reasons why shared primary residential care is not in the best interest of the child;
- (2) Conditions of parent-child contact in cases involving domestic abuse as provided in subsection 6;
- (3) A provision for child support as provided in subsection 8 or a statement of the reasons for not ordering child support;
- (4) A statement that each parent must have access to records and information pertaining to a minor child, including, but not limited to, medical, dental and school records and other information on school activities, whether or not the child resides with the parent, unless that access is found not to be in the best interest of the child or that access is found to be sought for the purpose of causing detriment to the other parent. If that access is not ordered, the court shall state in the order its reasons for denying that access;
- (5) A statement that violation of the order may result in a finding of contempt and imposition of sanctions as provided in subsection 7; and
- (6) A statement of the definition of shared parental rights and responsibilities contained in section 1501, subsection 5, if the order of the court awards shared parental rights and responsibilities.

An order modifying a previous order is not required to include provisions of the previous order that are not modified.

E. The order of the court may not include a requirement that the State pay for the defendant to attend a domestic violence intervention program unless the program is certified under section 4014.

F. The court may order that a minor's name be changed pursuant to Title 18-C, section 1-701.

3. Best interest of child. The court, in making an award of parental rights and responsibilities with respect to a child, shall apply the standard of the best interest of the child. In making decisions regarding the child's residence and parent-child contact, the court shall consider as primary the safety and well-being of the child. In applying this standard, the court shall consider the following factors:

- A. The age of the child;
- B. The relationship of the child with the child's parents and any other persons who may significantly affect the child's welfare;
- C. The preference of the child, if old enough to express a meaningful preference;
- D. The duration and adequacy of the child's current living arrangements and the desirability of maintaining continuity;
- E. The stability of any proposed living arrangements for the child;
- F. The motivation of the parties involved and their capacities to give the child love, affection and guidance;
- G. The child's adjustment to the child's present home, school and community;
- H. The capacity of each parent to allow and encourage frequent and continuing contact between the child and the other parent, including physical access;

- I. The capacity of each parent to cooperate or to learn to cooperate in child care;
- J. Methods for assisting parental cooperation and resolving disputes and each parent's willingness to use those methods;
- K. The effect on the child if one parent has sole authority over the child's upbringing;
- L. The existence of domestic abuse between the parents, in the past or currently, and how that abuse affects:
 - (1) The child emotionally;
 - (2) The safety of the child; and
 - (3) The other factors listed in this subsection, which must be considered in light of the presence of past or current domestic abuse;
- M. The existence of any history of child abuse by a parent;
- N. All other factors having a reasonable bearing on the physical and psychological well-being of the child;
- O. A parent's prior willful misuse of the protection from abuse process in chapter 101 in order to gain tactical advantage in a proceeding involving the determination of parental rights and responsibilities of a minor child. Such willful misuse may only be considered if established by clear and convincing evidence, and if it is further found by clear and convincing evidence that in the particular circumstances of the parents and child, that willful misuse tends to show that the acting parent will in the future have a lessened ability and willingness to cooperate and work with the other parent in their shared responsibilities for the child. The court shall articulate findings of fact whenever relying upon this factor as part of its determination of a child's best interest. The voluntary dismissal of a protection from abuse petition may not, taken alone, be treated as evidence of the willful misuse of the protection from abuse process;
- P. If the child is under one year of age, whether the child is being breast-fed;
- Q. The existence of a parent's conviction for a sex offense or a sexually violent offense as those terms are defined in Title 34-A, section 11203;
- R. If there is a person residing with a parent, whether that person:
 - (1) Has been convicted of a crime under Title 17-A, chapter 11 or 12 or a comparable crime in another jurisdiction;
 - (2) Has been adjudicated of a juvenile offense that, if the person had been an adult at the time of the offense, would have been a violation of Title 17-A, chapter 11 or 12; or
 - (3) Has been adjudicated in a proceeding, in which the person was a party, under Title 22, chapter 1071 as having committed a sexual offense; and
- S. Whether allocation of some or all parental rights and responsibilities would best support the child's safety and well-being.

4. Equal consideration of parents. The court may not apply a preference for one parent over the other in determining parental rights and responsibilities because of the parent's gender or the child's age or gender.

5. Departure from family residence. The court may not consider departure from the family residence as a factor in determining parental rights and responsibilities with respect to a minor child when the departing parent has been physically harmed or seriously threatened with physical harm by the other parent and that harm or threat of harm was causally related to the departure, or when one parent has left the family residence by mutual agreement or at the request or insistence of the other parent.

5-A. Effect of protective order. Although the court shall consider the fact that a protective order was issued under chapter 101, the court shall determine the proper award of parental rights and responsibilities and award of rights of contact de novo and may not use as precedent the award of parental rights and responsibilities and rights of contact included in the protective order.

6. Conditions of parent-child contact in cases involving domestic abuse. The court shall establish conditions of parent-child contact in cases involving domestic abuse as follows.

A. A court may award primary residence of a minor child or parent-child contact with a minor child to a parent who has committed domestic abuse only if the court finds that contact between the parent and child is in the best interest of the child and that adequate provision for the safety of the child and the parent who is a victim of domestic abuse can be made.

B. In an order of parental rights and responsibilities, a court may:

- (1) Order an exchange of a child to occur in a protected setting;
- (2) Order contact to be supervised by another person or agency;
- (3) Order the parent who has committed domestic abuse to attend and complete to the satisfaction of the court a domestic abuse intervention program or other designated counseling as a condition of the contact;
- (4) Order either parent to abstain from possession or consumption of alcohol or controlled substances, or both, during the visitation and for 24 hours preceding the contact;
- (5) Order the parent who has committed domestic abuse to pay a fee to defray the costs of supervised contact;
- (6) Prohibit overnight parent-child contact; and
- (7) Impose any other condition that is determined necessary to provide for the safety of the child, the victim of domestic abuse or any other family or household member.

C. The court may require security from the parent who has committed domestic abuse for the return and safety of the child.

D. The court may order the address of the child and the victim to be kept confidential.

E. The court may not order a victim of domestic abuse to attend counseling with the parent who has committed domestic abuse.

F. If a court allows a family or household member to supervise parent-child contact, the court shall establish conditions to be followed during that contact. Conditions include but are not limited to:

- (1) Minimizing circumstances when the family of the parent who has committed domestic abuse would be supervising visits;
- (2) Ensuring that contact does not damage the relationship with the parent with whom the child has primary physical residence;
- (3) Ensuring the safety and well-being of the child; and
- (4) Requiring that supervision is provided by a person who is physically and mentally capable of supervising a visit and who does not have a criminal history or history of abuse or neglect.

G. Fees set forth in this subsection incurred by the parent who has committed domestic abuse may not be considered as a mitigating factor reducing that parent's child support obligation.

6-A. Custody and contact limited; convictions for sexual offenses. The award of primary residence and parent-child contact with a person who has been convicted of a child-related sexual offense is governed by this subsection.

A. For the purposes of this section, "child-related sexual offense" means the following sexual offenses if, at the time of the commission of the offense, the victim was under 18 years of age or the victim was a student enrolled in a private or public elementary, secondary or special education school, facility or institution and the person was a teacher, employee or other official having instructional, supervisory or disciplinary authority over the student or the person was a substitute teacher who had instructional, supervisory or disciplinary authority over the student at any time during the 12 months prior to the time of the commission of the offense:

- (1) Sexual exploitation of a minor, under Title 17-A, section 282;
- (2) Gross sexual assault, under Title 17-A, section 253;
- (3) Sexual abuse of a minor, under Title 17-A, section 254;
- (4) Unlawful sexual contact, under Title 17-A, section 255-A or former section 255;
- (5) Visual sexual aggression against a child, under Title 17-A, section 256;
- (6) Sexual misconduct with a child under 14 years of age, under Title 17-A, section 258;
- (6-A) Solicitation of a child to commit a prohibited act, under Title 17-A, section 259-A; or
- (7) An offense in another jurisdiction that involves conduct that is substantially similar to that contained in subparagraph (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6) or (6-A). For purposes of this subparagraph, "another jurisdiction" means the Federal Government, the United States military, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and each of the several states except Maine. "Another jurisdiction" also means the Passamaquoddy Tribe when that tribe has acted pursuant to Title 30, section 6209-A, subsection 1, paragraph A or B and the Penobscot Nation when that tribe has acted pursuant to Title 30, section 6209-B, subsection 1, paragraph A or B.

B. A court may award primary residence of a minor child or parent-child contact with a minor child to a parent who has been convicted of a child-related sexual offense only if the court finds that contact between the parent and child is in the best interest of the child and that adequate provision for the safety of the child can be made.

C. In an order of parental rights and responsibilities, a court may require that parent-child contact between a minor child and a person convicted of a child-related sexual offense may occur only if there is another person or agency present to supervise the contact. If the court allows a family or household member to supervise parent-child contact, the court shall establish conditions to be followed during that contact. Conditions include, but are not limited to, those that:

- (1) Minimize circumstances when the family of the parent who is a sex offender or sexually violent predator would be supervising visits;
- (2) Ensure that contact does not damage the relationship with the parent with whom the child has primary physical residence;
- (3) Ensure the safety and well-being of the child; and
- (4) Require that supervision be provided by a person who is physically and mentally capable of supervising a visit and who does not have a criminal history or history of abuse or neglect.

6-B. Conviction or adjudication for certain sex offenses; presumption. There is a rebuttable presumption that the petitioner would create a situation of jeopardy for the child if any contact were to be permitted and that any contact is not in the best interests of the child if the court finds that the person seeking primary residence or contact with the child:

- A. Has been convicted of an offense listed in subsection 6-A, paragraph A in which the victim was a minor at the time of the offense and the person was at least 5 years older than the minor at the time of the offense except that, if the offense was gross sexual assault under Title 17-A, section 253, subsection 1, paragraph B or C, or an offense in another jurisdiction that involves conduct that is substantially similar to that contained in Title 17-A, section 253, subsection 1, paragraph B or C, and the minor victim submitted as a result of compulsion, the presumption applies regardless of the ages of the person and the minor victim at the time of the offense; or
- B. Has been adjudicated in an action under Title 22, chapter 1071 of sexually abusing a person who was a minor at the time of the abuse.

The person seeking primary residence or contact with the child may present evidence to rebut the presumption.

7. Violation of order concerning parental rights and responsibilities and contact. Either parent may petition the court for a hearing on the issue of noncompliance with the order issued under subsection 2. If the court finds that a parent has violated a part of the order, the court may find that parent in contempt and may:

- A. Require additional or more specific terms and conditions consistent with the order;
- B. Order that additional visitation be provided for a parent to take the place of visitation that was wrongfully denied; or
- C. Order a parent found in contempt to pay a forfeiture of at least \$100.

8. Child support order. The court may order conditions of child support as follows.

A. Either parent of a minor child shall contribute reasonable and just sums as child support payable weekly, biweekly, monthly or quarterly. In an action filed under section 1654, the court may require the child's nonprimary care provider to pay past support. Availability of public welfare benefits to the family may not affect the decision of the court as to the responsibility of a parent to provide child support. The court shall inquire of the parties concerning the existence of a child support order entered pursuant to chapter 65, subchapter 2, article 3. If an order exists, the court shall consider its terms in establishing a child support obligation. A determination or modification of child support under this section and a determination of past support must comply with chapter 63.

B. After January 1, 1990, if the court orders either parent to provide child support, the court order must require that the child support be provided beyond the child's 18th birthday if the child is attending secondary school as defined in Title 20-A, section 1, until the child graduates, withdraws or is expelled from secondary school or attains the age of 19, whichever occurs first.

C. The court may require the payment of part or all of the medical expenses, hospital expenses and other health care expenses of the child. The court order must include a provision requiring at least one parent to obtain and maintain private health insurance for the child, if private health insurance for the child is available at reasonable cost. The court order must also require the parent providing insurance to furnish proof of coverage to the other parent within 15 days of receipt of a copy of the court order. If private health insurance for the child is not available at reasonable cost at the time of the hearing, the court order must include a provision requiring at least one parent to obtain and maintain private health insurance for the child that must be effective immediately upon private health insurance for the child being available at reasonable cost.

When the department provides support enforcement services, the support order must include a provision that requires the responsible parent to keep the department informed of changes in that parent's current address, the name and address of that parent's current employer and whether the responsible parent has

access to reasonable cost health insurance coverage and, if so, the health insurance policy information and any subsequent changes.

9. Enforcement of child support order. The court may enforce a child support order as provided in chapter 65.

10. Modification or termination. Upon the petition of one or both of the parents, an order for parental rights and responsibilities with respect to a minor child may be modified or terminated as circumstances require.

A. Modification and termination of child support orders are governed by section 2009.

B. Modification of and termination orders for parental rights and responsibilities other than child support are governed by section 1657.

11. Mediation. Prior to a contested hearing under this chapter relating to initial or modified orders, the court shall refer the parties to mediation as provided in chapter 3.

12. Termination of order. A court order requiring the payment of child support remains in force as to each child until the order is altered by the court or until that child:

A. Attains 18 years of age. For orders issued after January 1, 1990, if the child attains 18 years of age while attending secondary school as defined in Title 20-A, section 1, the order remains in force until the child graduates, withdraws or is expelled from secondary school or attains 19 years of age, whichever occurs first;

B. Becomes married; or

C. Becomes a member of the armed services.

13. Automatic adjustments.

14. Notice of relocation. The order must require notice of the intended relocation of a child by a parent awarded shared parental rights and responsibilities or allocated parental rights and responsibilities. At least 30 days before the intended relocation of a child by a parent, the parent shall provide notice to the other parent of the intended relocation. If the relocation must occur in fewer than 30 days, the parent who is relocating shall provide notice as soon as possible to the other parent. If the parent who is relocating believes notifying the other parent will cause danger to the relocating parent or the child, the relocating parent shall notify the court of the intended relocation, and the court shall provide appropriate notice to the other parent in a manner determined to provide safety to the relocating parent and child.

**TITLE 34-A
CORRECTIONS**

**CHAPTER 15
SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION ACT OF 1999**

**SUBCHAPTER 1
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

§11201. Short title

This chapter may be known and cited as the "Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act of 1999." The purpose of this chapter is to protect the public from potentially dangerous registrants and offenders by enhancing access to information concerning those registrants and offenders.

§11202. Application

Unless excepted under section 11202-A, this chapter applies to:

1. Maine. A person sentenced in this State on or after January 1, 1982 for a sex offense or a sexually violent offense as an adult or as a juvenile sentenced as an adult; and

2. Other jurisdictions. A person sentenced in another jurisdiction as an adult or as a juvenile sentenced as an adult:

A. At any time of an offense that requires registration in the jurisdiction of conviction pursuant to that jurisdiction's sex offender registration laws or that would have required registration had the person remained there;

B. On or after January 1, 1982, of an offense that contains the essential elements of a sex offense or sexually violent offense; or

C. At any time for a military, tribal or federal offense requiring registration pursuant to:

(1) The Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act, also known as the Jacob Wetterling Act, Section 170101 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, Public Law 103-322, as amended; or

(2) The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, Public Law 109-248.

§11203. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Bureau. "Bureau" means the State Bureau of Identification.

1-A. Conditional release. "Conditional release" means supervised release of a registrant or an offender from institutional confinement for placement on probation, parole, supervised release for sex offenders, supervised community confinement, home release monitoring or release under Title 15, section 104-A or Title 17-A, chapter 54-G.

1-B. Discharge. "Discharge" means unconditional release and discharge of a registrant from institutional confinement upon the expiration of a sentence or upon discharge under Title 15, section 104-A.

1-C. Another state. "Another state" means each of the several states except Maine, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands.

2. Domicile. "Domicile" means the place where a person has that person's established, fixed, permanent or ordinary dwelling place or legal residence to which, whenever the person is absent, the person has the intention of returning. A person may have more than one residence but only one domicile.

3. FBI. "FBI" means the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

3-A. Jurisdiction. "Jurisdiction" means the Federal Government, including the military, this State or another state or tribe.

4. Law enforcement agency having jurisdiction. "Law enforcement agency having jurisdiction" means the chief of police in the municipality where a registrant or an offender expects to be or is domiciled. If the municipality does not have a chief of police, "law enforcement agency having jurisdiction" means the sheriff of the county where the municipality is located. "Law enforcement agency having jurisdiction" also means the sheriff of the county in an unorganized territory.

4-A. Risk assessment instrument. "Risk assessment instrument" means an instrument created and modified as necessary by reviewing and analyzing precursors to a sex offense, victim populations of a registrant or an offender, living conditions and environment of a registrant or an offender and other factors predisposing a person to become a registrant or an offender, for the ongoing purpose of identifying risk factors.

4-B. Sentence. "Sentence," in addition to any punishment alternatives, includes an involuntary commitment under Title 15, section 103, or similar statute from another jurisdiction, following a verdict of not criminally responsible by reason of mental disease or defect or similar verdict in another jurisdiction.

4-C. Registrant. "Registrant" means a 10-year registrant or a lifetime registrant or, when appropriate, both a 10-year registrant and a lifetime registrant.

4-D. Residence. "Residence" means that place or those places, other than a domicile, in which a person may spend time living, residing or dwelling. Proof that an offender has lived in the State for 14 days continuously or an aggregate of 30 days within a period of one year gives rise to a permissible inference under the Maine Rules of Evidence, Rule 303 that the person has established a residence for the purposes of registration requirements imposed by this chapter.

4-E. Offender. "Offender" means a person to whom this chapter applies pursuant to section 11202.

5. Ten-year registrant. "Ten-year registrant" means a person who has complied with the initial duty to register under this chapter as an adult convicted and sentenced or a juvenile convicted and sentenced as an adult of a sex offense.

6. Sex offense. "Sex offense" means a conviction for one of the following offenses or for an attempt or solicitation of one of the following offenses if the victim was less than 18 years of age at the time of the criminal conduct:

A.

B. A violation under former Title 17, section 2922; former Title 17, section 2923; former Title 17, section 2924; Title 17-A, section 253, subsection 2, paragraph E, F, G, H, I or J; Title 17-A, section 254; former Title 17-A, section 255, subsection 1, paragraph A, E, F, G, I or J; former Title 17-A, section 255, subsection 1, paragraph B or D if the crime was not elevated a class under former Title 17-A, section 255, subsection 3; Title 17-A, section 255-A, subsection 1, paragraph A, B, C, F-2, G, I, J, K, L, M, N, Q, R, S or T; Title 17-A, section 256; Title 17-A, section 258; former Title

17-A, section 259; Title 17-A, section 282; Title 17-A, section 283; Title 17-A, section 284; Title 17-A, section 301, subsection 1, paragraph A, subparagraph (3), unless the actor is a parent of the victim; Title 17-A, section 511, subsection 1, paragraph D; Title 17-A, section 556; Title 17-A, section 852, subsection 1, paragraph B; or Title 17-A, section 855;

C. A violation in another jurisdiction that includes the essential elements of an offense listed in paragraph B; or

D. A conviction for a military, tribal or federal offense requiring registration pursuant to:

(1) The Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act, also known as the Jacob Wetterling Act, Section 170101 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, Public Law 103-322, as amended; or

(2) The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, Public Law 109-248.

6-A. Sex offense; after October 1, 2011. For persons convicted and sentenced on or after October 1, 2011, "sex offense" means, in addition to the offenses listed in subsection 6, a conviction for one of the following offenses or for an attempt or solicitation of one of the following offenses, without regard to the age of the victim:

A. Title 17-A, section 253, subsection 2, paragraphs J, K and L and Title 17-A, section 255-A, subsection 1, paragraphs C, G, Q, R, R-1, R-2, W and X;

B. A violation in another jurisdiction that includes the essential elements of an offense listed in paragraph A; or

C. A conviction for a military, tribal or federal offense requiring registration pursuant to:

(1) The Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act, also known as the Jacob Wetterling Act, Section 170101 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, Public Law 103-322, as amended; or

(2) The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, Public Law 109-248.

6-B. Sex offense; after October 1, 2012. For persons convicted and sentenced on or after October 1, 2012, "sex offense" means, in addition to the offenses listed in subsections 6 and 6-A:

A. A conviction for an offense under Title 17-A, section 259-A or for an attempt or conspiracy to commit an offense under Title 17-A, section 259-A;

B. A violation in another jurisdiction that includes the essential elements of an offense listed under Title 17-A, section 259-A; or

C. A conviction for a military, tribal or federal offense requiring registration pursuant to:

(1) The Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act, also known as the Jacob Wetterling Act, Section 170101 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, Public Law 103-322, as amended; or

(2) The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, Public Law 109-248.

7. Sexually violent offense. "Sexually violent offense" means:

A. A conviction for one of the offenses or for an attempt to commit one of the offenses under former Title 17-A, section 252; under Title 17-A, section 253, subsection 1; Title 17-A, section 253, subsection 2, paragraph A, B, C or D; former Title 17-A, section 255, subsection 1, paragraph C or H; former Title 17-A, section 255, subsection 1, paragraph B or D, if the crime was elevated a class under former Title 17-A, section 255, subsection 3; Title 17-A, section 255-A, subsection 1, paragraph D, E, E-1, F, F-1, H, O or P;

B. A conviction for an offense or for an attempt to commit an offense of the law in another jurisdiction that includes the essential elements of an offense listed in paragraph A; or

C. A conviction for a military, tribal or federal offense requiring registration pursuant to:

(1) The Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act, also known as the Jacob Wetterling Act, Section 170101 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, Public Law 103-322, as amended; or

(2) The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, Public Law 109-248.

8. Lifetime registrant. "Lifetime registrant" means a person who has complied with the initial duty to register under this chapter as an adult convicted and sentenced or a juvenile convicted and sentenced as an adult of a:

A. Sexually violent offense; or

B. Sex offense when the person has another conviction for or an attempt to commit an offense that includes the essential elements of a sex offense or sexually violent offense. For purposes of this paragraph, "another conviction" means:

(1) For persons convicted and sentenced before September 17, 2005, a conviction for an offense for which sentence was imposed prior to the occurrence of the new offense; and

(2) For persons convicted and sentenced on or after September 17, 2005, a conviction that occurred at any time. Convictions that occur on the same day may be counted as other offenses for the purposes of classifying a person as a lifetime registrant if:

(a) There is more than one victim; or

(b) The convictions are for offenses based on different conduct or arising from different criminal episodes.

9. Tribe. "Tribe" means the Passamaquoddy Tribe or the Penobscot Nation.

SUBCHAPTER 2 SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION

§11221. Maintenance of sex offender registry

1. Maintenance of registry. The bureau shall establish and maintain a registry of persons required to register pursuant to this subchapter. The registry must include the following information on each registrant:

A. The registrant's name, aliases, date of birth, sex, race, height, weight, eye color, mailing address and physical location of expected domicile and residence;

B. Place of employment and college or school being attended, if applicable, and the corresponding address and location;

C. Offense history;

D. Notation of any treatment received for a mental abnormality or personality disorder;

E. A photograph and set of fingerprints;

F. A description of the offense for which the registrant was convicted, the date of conviction and the sentence imposed; and

G. Any other information the bureau determines important.

2. National or regional registry. The bureau is authorized to make the registry available to and accept files from a national or regional registry of registrants for the purpose of sharing information.

3. Registration form. The bureau shall develop a standardized registration form to be made available to the appropriate reporting authorities and persons required to register.

4. Verification form. The bureau shall develop and mail a nonforwardable verification form to the last reported mailing address of each person required to meet the verification requirements of this chapter.

5. Sexually violent predator directory.

6. Distribution of information to department and law enforcement agencies. The bureau shall distribute information described in subsection 1 to the department and law enforcement agencies having jurisdiction over the address and location of the registrant's domicile, residence, place of employment and college or school being attended.

7. Rules.

8. Criminal justice agency access to information. The bureau shall provide access to the information described in subsection 1 to criminal justice agencies. For purposes of this subsection, "criminal justice agency" has the same meaning as in Title 16, section 703, subsection 4.

9. Public access to information. The bureau shall provide information to the public as follows.

A. The bureau shall post on the Internet for public inspection the following information concerning a registrant:

- (1) The registrant's name, date of birth and photograph;
- (2) The registrant's city or town of domicile and residence;
- (3) The registrant's place of employment and college or school being attended, if applicable, and the corresponding address and location;
- (4) The statutory citation and name of the offense for which the registrant was convicted; and
- (5) The registrant's designation as a 10-year registrant or a lifetime registrant.

B. Upon receiving a written request that includes the name and date of birth of a registrant, the bureau shall provide the following information concerning a registrant to the requestor:

- (1) The registrant's name, aliases, date of birth, sex, race, height, weight, eye color, mailing address and physical location of domicile and residence;
- (2) The registrant's place of employment and college or school being attended, if applicable, and the corresponding address and location;
- (3) A description of the offense for which the registrant was convicted, the date of conviction and the sentence imposed; and
- (4) The registrant's photograph.

9-A. Registry information. Registry information created, collected or maintained by the bureau, including, but not limited to, information relating to the identity of persons accessing the registry, is confidential, except the following are public records:

A. Information provided to the public pursuant to subsection 9; and

B. Applications and bureau decisions, including any documents made part of those decisions, pursuant to section 11202-A.

10. Registrant access to information. The bureau shall provide all information described in subsection 1, paragraphs A to F to a registrant who requests that person's own information. The process for access and review of that information is governed by Title 16, section 709.

11. Maintenance by bureau. Only the bureau is authorized to maintain a sex offender registry on the Internet for purposes of public access as described in subsection 9.

12. Law enforcement agency website. A law enforcement agency may maintain its own sex offender website and may make that information available for use by the public if:

A. A notice is prominently posted on the website that expressly states that the website is not the official state sex offender registry under subsection 1 and that the law enforcement agency posting the website is solely responsible for the website's content;

B. The website provides a link to the bureau's Internet sex offender registry under subsection 1;

C. The website contains information regarding only registrants who are domiciled, reside, attend college or school or work within the posting law enforcement agency's jurisdiction; and

D. The information on the website is updated by the law enforcement agency as frequently as available resources permit, but no less than every 7 days. The law enforcement agency shall also prominently post on the website the date and time of the most recent update to the website.

13. Access to registrant information existing in electronic form restricted. Notwithstanding Title 1, chapter 13:

A. The bureau may not disseminate in electronic form information about a registrant that is created, collected or maintained in electronic form by or for the bureau, except as made available to the public through the bureau's Internet website pursuant to subsection 9 and made available to the Background Check Center established pursuant to Title 22, chapter 1691; and

B. Except as made available to the public through an Internet website maintained by a law enforcement agency pursuant to subsection 12, a law enforcement agency may not disseminate in electronic form information about a registrant that is collected or maintained in electronic form by or for the law enforcement agency.

§11225-A. Duration of registration

1. Ten-year registrant convicted and sentenced in State. The following provisions apply to a 10-year registrant convicted and sentenced in this State.

A.

B. A 10-year registrant sentenced in this State shall register for a period of 10 years. The 10-year period is calculated as follows.

(1) If the 10-year registrant was sentenced prior to September 18, 1999 to a wholly suspended sentence with probation or administrative release or to a punishment alternative not involving imprisonment, the 10-year period is treated as having begun at the time the person commenced an actual execution of the wholly suspended sentence or at the time of sentence imposition when no punishment alternative involving imprisonment was imposed, unless the court ordered a stay of execution, in which event the 10-year period is treated as having begun at the termination of the stay.

(2) If the 10-year registrant was sentenced prior to September 18, 1999 to a straight term of imprisonment or to a split sentence, the 10-year period is treated as having begun at the time of discharge or conditional release.

(3) If the 10-year registrant was committed under Title 15, section 103 prior to September 18, 1999, the 10-year period is treated as having begun at the time of discharge or conditional release under Title 15, section 104-A.

(4) If the 10-year registrant was sentenced prior to September 18, 1999 and the person's duty to register has not yet been triggered, the 10-year period commences upon registration by the person in compliance with section 11222, subsection 1-A, paragraph A, B or C.

(5) If the 10-year registrant was sentenced on or after September 18, 1999, the 10-year period commences from the date the person in fact initially registers once the legal duty to register arises under section 11222.

2. Ten-year registrant convicted and sentenced in another jurisdiction. The following provisions apply to a 10-year registrant convicted and sentenced in another jurisdiction and required to register in this State pursuant to section 11223, section 11224 or both.

A. A 10-year registrant shall register in this State for a period of 10 years if, pursuant to the other jurisdiction's sex offender registration statute, the registration period is for a period of years rather than for a lifetime. The 10-year period commences from the date the person in fact initially registers in this State once the legal duty to register arises under section 11223, section 11224 or both. However, the 10-year registrant may receive day-for-day credit for the time actually registered pursuant to the other jurisdiction's sex offender registration statutes prior to registering in this State upon applying to the bureau for credit. The bureau may grant credit if the registrant provides sufficient documentation in accordance with any rules adopted by the bureau.

B. A 10-year registrant shall register for a period of 10 years if registration was not required in that other jurisdiction and the person was sentenced on or after January 1, 1982 in that jurisdiction for a crime that includes the essential elements of a sex offense. The 10-year period is calculated by applying subsection 1, paragraph B, subparagraphs (1) to (4) but interpreted and applied to take into account substantially similar sentencing alternatives imposed in the other jurisdiction.

3. Lifetime registrant convicted and sentenced in this State. A lifetime registrant sentenced on or after January 1, 1982 in this State shall register for the duration of that registrant's life.

4. Lifetime registrant convicted and sentenced in another jurisdiction. The following provisions apply to a lifetime registrant convicted and sentenced in another jurisdiction and required to register in this State pursuant to section 11223, section 11224 or both.

A. A person shall register in this State for the duration of that person's life if, pursuant to that other jurisdiction's sex offender registration statute, the registration period is for a lifetime.

B. A person shall register in this State for the duration of that person's life if no registration was required in that other jurisdiction and the person was sentenced on or after January 1, 1982 in that jurisdiction for a crime that includes the essential elements of a sexually violent offense or the person has 2 or more prior convictions in that or any other jurisdiction for an offense or for an attempted offense that includes the essential elements of a sex offense or a sexually violent offense.

5. Suspending verifications. Notwithstanding subsections 1 and 3, the bureau, pursuant to any rules the bureau may adopt, may suspend the requirement that the 10-year registrant or lifetime registrant verify registration information during any period in which the 10-year registrant or lifetime registrant:

A. Leaves this State, establishes a domicile or residence in another state and remains physically absent from this State;

B. Is incarcerated; or

C. Is incapacitated or hospitalized.

6. Relief from duty to register. The following provisions apply to an offender's, a 10-year registrant's or a lifetime registrant's duty to register.

A. An offender's or a 10-year registrant's duty to register for a period of 10 years pursuant to subsection 2 is not required if the circumstances triggering the registration requirements under section 11223, section 11224 or both no longer exist.

B. An offender's or a lifetime registrant's duty to register for the duration of that person's life pursuant to subsection 4 is not required if the circumstances triggering the registration requirements under section 11223, section 11224 or both no longer exist.

C. If the underlying conviction in this State or in another jurisdiction that triggers the registration requirement is reversed, vacated or set aside, or if the offender or registrant is pardoned for the crime, registration is no longer required.

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