

IC 31-10-2

Chapter 2. General Policy Provisions

IC 31-10-2-1

Policy and purpose

Sec. 1. It is the policy of this state and the purpose of this title to:

- (1) recognize the importance of family and children in our society;
- (2) recognize the responsibility of the state to enhance the viability of children and family in our society;
- (3) acknowledge the responsibility each person owes to the other;
- (4) strengthen family life by assisting parents to fulfill their parental obligations;
- (5) ensure that children within the juvenile justice system are treated as persons in need of care, protection, treatment, and rehabilitation;
- (6) remove children from families only when it is in the child's best interest or in the best interest of public safety;
- (7) provide for adoption as a viable permanency plan for children who are adjudicated children in need of services;
- (8) provide a juvenile justice system that protects the public by enforcing the legal obligations that children have to society and society has to children;
- (9) use diversionary programs when appropriate;
- (10) provide a judicial procedure that:
 - (A) ensures fair hearings;
 - (B) recognizes and enforces the legal rights of children and their parents; and
 - (C) recognizes and enforces the accountability of children and parents;
- (11) promote public safety and individual accountability by the imposition of appropriate sanctions; and
- (12) provide a continuum of services developed in a cooperative effort by local governments and the state.

As added by P.L.1-1997, SEC.2. Amended by P.L.35-1998, SEC.3.