

## CHAPTER 301

AN ACT concerning criminal defendants and supplementing Title 2A of the New Jersey Statutes and Title 9 of the Revised Statutes.

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

C.2C:44-6.2 Person sentenced to incarceration, care and custody of minor child.

1. a. In any case in which a person has been convicted of a crime for which the person will be incarcerated, the court shall order, as part of the presentence investigation required pursuant to N.J.S.2C:44-6, that a determination be made as to whether the person is the sole caretaker of a minor child and, if so, who will assume responsibility for the child's care and custody during the period the person is incarcerated.

b. If the determination is made that the person is the sole caretaker of the child, the presentence investigation shall also include:

(1) verification that the person who will be responsible for the child's care and custody during the period of incarceration has agreed to assume responsibility for the child's care and custody;

(2) an inquiry as to the willingness of the person to assume responsibility for the child's care and custody during the period of incarceration; and

(3) a PROMIS/GAVEL network check, juvenile central registry check and domestic violence central registry check on the person who will be responsible for the child's care and custody during the period of incarceration and on any adult and juvenile over 12 years of age in the person's household.

c. The court shall provide the information compiled pursuant to subsection b. of this section, from the presentence investigation, to the Division of Youth and Family Services in the Department of Human Services.

C.9:6-8.10c Child abuse record information check on designated caretaker.

2. a. Upon receiving the presentencing investigation information from the court pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2003, c.301 (C.2C:44-6.2) concerning a sole caretaker of a child who will be incarcerated and the person who will assume care and custody of the child during the period of incarceration, the Division of Youth and Family Services in the Department of Human Services shall conduct a child abuse record information check of its child abuse records to determine if an incident of child abuse or neglect has been substantiated against the person who will be responsible for the child's care and custody or any adult and juvenile over 12 years of age in the person's household.

b. If, based on the information provided by the court and the check of its child abuse records, the division determines that the incarcerated person's minor child may be at risk for abuse or neglect or the child's emotional, physical, health care and educational needs will not be met during the period of incarceration, the division shall take appropriate action to ensure the safety of the child.

C.2C:44-6.3 Report of persons convicted of certain crimes residing with minor children.

3. a. In any case in which a person has been convicted of a crime enumerated in subsection b. of this section and:

(1) the victim of the crime was a person under the age of 18 at the time of the commission of the crime; and

(2) the person convicted of the crime resides in a household with other minor children or is a parent of a minor child,

the court, based on an interview with the defendant, shall make a referral to the Division of Youth and Family Services in the Department of Human Services and provide the division with the name and address of the person convicted of the crime, information on the person's criminal history and the name and address of each child referred to in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

b. For purposes of this section, "crime" includes any of the following:

(1) murder pursuant to N.J.S.2C:11-3 or manslaughter pursuant to N.J.S.2C:11-4;

(2) simple assault or aggravated assault pursuant to N.J.S.2C:12-1;

(3) stalking pursuant to P.L.1992, c.209 (C.2C:12-10);

(4) terrorist threats pursuant to N.J.S.2C:12-3;

(5) kidnapping and related offenses including criminal restraint; false imprisonment; interference with custody; criminal coercion; or enticing a child into a motor vehicle, structure, or isolated area pursuant to N.J.S.2C:13-1 through 2C:13-6;

(6) sexual assault, criminal sexual contact or lewdness pursuant to N.J.S.2C:14-2 through N.J.S.2C:14-4;

(7) arson pursuant to N.J.S.2C:17-1, or causing or risking widespread injury or damage which would constitute a crime of the second degree pursuant to N.J.S.2C:17-2;

(8) a crime against a child, including endangering the welfare of a child and child pornography pursuant to N.J.S.2C:24-4; or child abuse, neglect, or abandonment pursuant to R.S.9:6-3;

(9) endangering the welfare of an incompetent person pursuant to N.J.S.2C:24-7 or endangering the welfare of an elderly or disabled person pursuant to N.J.S.2C:24-8;

(10) domestic violence pursuant to P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-17 et seq.); or

(11) an attempt or conspiracy to commit an offense listed in paragraphs (1) through (10) of this subsection.

C.9:6-8.10d Regulations.

4. The Commissioner of Human Services shall adopt rules and regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) to carry out the purposes of sections 2 and 3 of this act.

C.2C:44-6.4 Rules of Court.

5. The Supreme Court of the State of New Jersey may adopt Rules of Court appropriate or necessary to effectuate the purposes of sections 1 and 3 of this act.

6. This act shall take effect on the 90th day after enactment

Approved January 14, 2004.