Session of 2020

SENATE BILL No. 404

By Committee on Judiciary

2-11

AN ACT concerning children and minors; relating to the revised code for care of children; termination of parental rights; children conceived as a result of sexual assault; amending K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 23-3203, 38-2269 and 38-2271 and repealing the existing sections.

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

New Section 1. (a) As used in this act, unless the context requires otherwise:

- (1) "Aggravated indecent liberties" means an act meeting the elements of K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 21-5506(b)(1), and amendments thereto, or an act in any other jurisdiction that is in substantial conformity with the elements of K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 21-5506(b)(1), and amendments thereto, unless there is a finding that the act involved non-forcible conduct, both parties to the act were at least 14 years of age and neither party was more than four years older than the other party.
- (2) "Child" means a person allegedly conceived and born as a result of rape, aggravated indecent liberties or incest.
- (3) "Conviction" includes a judgment of guilt entered upon a plea of guilty or no contest.
- (4) "Incest" means an act meeting the elements of K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 21-5604, and amendments thereto, or an act committed in any other jurisdiction that is substantial conformity with the elements of K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 21-5604, and amendments thereto.
- (5) "Petitioner" means an alleged victim of sexual assault or, if the alleged victim is a minor, a person on such minor's behalf, who files a petition for termination of the parent-child legal relationship of the other parent as provided in this section.
- (6) "Rape" means an act meeting the elements of K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 21-5503, and amendments thereto, or an act committed in any other jurisdiction that is in substantial conformity with the elements of K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 21-5503, and amendments thereto.
- (7) "Respondent" means a person against whom a petition for termination of the parent-child legal relationship is filed as provided in this section.
 - (8) "This act" means sections 1 through 7, and amendments thereto.

New Sec. 2. (a) The petitioner may bring an action at any time during

 the child's minority to terminate the parental rights of the respondent if the child is alleged to have been conceived as a result of the act of rape, aggravated indecent liberties or incest whether or not a conviction has occurred.

- (b) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this act, any proceeding under this act shall be in accordance with chapter 60 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto.
 - (2) Trial of all issues in actions under this act shall be to the court.
- (c) (1) An action under this act may be brought in the county in which the child, the petitioner or the respondent resides or is found.
- (2) A petition under this act may be filed only in a court that has jurisdiction to make a child-custody determination with respect to the child under the uniform child custody jurisdiction and enforcement act, K.S.A. 23-37,101 et seq., and amendments thereto.
- (d) If the child is an Indian child, the court shall ensure compliance with the Indian child welfare act, 25 U.S.C. § 1901 et seq.
- (e) (1) All pleadings shall be captioned, "In the matter of the termination of the parental rights of ______ (name of respondent)."
- (2) All pleadings, motions, briefs and orders shall include the first and last name of the petitioner and respondent. In all pleadings, motions, briefs and orders, the child shall be referred to by initials only or by given name and last initial.
- (3) The verified petition filed under this act shall allege facts sufficient to show the following:
 - (A) The respondent is the parent of the child;
- (B) the respondent committed rape, aggravated indecent liberties or incest against the petitioner;
- (C) the child was conceived as a result of the act of rape, aggravated indecent liberties or incest; and
- (D) termination of the parent-child legal relationship of the respondent with the child is in the best interests of the child.
- (4) The petition or an attached affidavit shall include the information required by K.S.A. 23-37,209, and amendments thereto.
- (5) If a party alleges in an affidavit or a pleading under oath that the health, safety or liberty of a party or child would be jeopardized by disclosure of identifying information, the information shall be sealed and may not be disclosed to the other party or the public unless the court orders the disclosure to be made after a hearing in which the court takes into consideration the health, safety or liberty of the party or child and determines that the disclosure is in the interest of justice. The provisions of this paragraph shall expire on July 1, 2025, unless the legislature reviews and continues this provision pursuant to K.S.A 45-229, and amendments

thereto, prior to July 1, 2025.

- (f) A docket fee shall not be assessed in an action under this section.
- (g) Summons, notice of hearings and other process may be served by one of the following methods:
- (1) Personal and residence service is completed by service in substantial compliance with the provisions of K.S.A. 60-303, and amendments thereto. Personal service upon an individual outside the state is completed by service in substantial compliance with the applicable provisions of K.S.A. 60-308, and amendments thereto.
- (2) Service by return receipt delivery is completed upon mailing or sending only in accordance with K.S.A. 60-303(c), and amendments thereto.
- (3) Service may be made by first-class mail, addressed to the individual to be served at the usual place of residence of the person with postage prepaid and is completed upon the person appearing before the court in response thereto. If the person fails to appear, the summons, notice or other process shall be delivered by personal service, residential service, certified mail service or publication service.
- (4) If a person who is a party to the proceedings under this act is confined in a state, local or federal correctional facility, juvenile correctional or detention facility, state or federal hospital or other institution, service shall be made by return receipt delivery to addressee only to both the person in charge of the facility or institution and the confined person in care of the person in charge or the designee of the person in charge of the facility or institution. Personal service on a confined person who is present in the courtroom cures any defect in notice to the person in charge of the facility or institution.
- (5) If service cannot be completed after due diligence using any other method provided in this subsection, service may be made by publication in accordance with this subsection. Before service by publication, the petitioner, or someone on behalf of the petitioner, shall file an affidavit stating that the affiant has made a reasonable but unsuccessful effort to ascertain the name and residence of the respondent. The notice shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in the newspaper authorized to publish legal notices in the county where the petition is filed. If a person cannot be served by other means and due diligence has revealed with substantial certainty that the person is residing in a particular locality, publication shall also be in a newspaper authorized to publish legal notices in that locality.
- New Sec. 3. (a) In order to protect the privacy of the child, the court records for proceedings pursuant to this act shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed except to:
 - (1) The court having jurisdiction over the proceeding, including the

presiding judge and any court personnel designated by the judge;

- (2) the parties to the proceedings and their attorneys;
- (3) the child;

- (4) the child's appointed guardian ad litem; and
- (5) any other person or entity when authorized by a court order, subject to any conditions imposed by the order.
- (b) Proceedings pursuant to this act shall be closed to all persons except the parties, the parties' attorneys, the guardian ad litem and officers of the court.
- (1) Other persons may be permitted to attend with the consent of the parties or by order of the court, if the court determines that such attendance would be in the best interests of the child or the conduct of the proceedings, subject to such limitations as the court determines to be appropriate.
- (2) The court may exclude any person if the court determines that such person's exclusion would be in the best interests of the child or the conduct of the proceedings.
- (c) The provisions of this section shall expire on July 1, 2025, unless the legislature reviews and continues this provision pursuant to K.S.A 45-229, and amendments thereto, prior to July 1, 2025.
- New Sec. 4. (a) (1) The respondent is entitled to be represented by an attorney in connection with all proceedings under this act. If at any stage of the proceedings the respondent desires but is financially unable to employ an attorney, the court shall appoint an attorney to represent the respondent. A respondent who is not a minor, a mentally ill person or a disabled person may waive counsel either in writing or on the record.
- (2) The court shall appoint an attorney for the respondent who is a minor, a mentally ill person or a disabled person unless the court determines that there is an attorney retained who will appear and represent the interests of the respondent in the proceedings under this act.
- (b) If requested by a party or upon the court's own motion, the court may appoint an attorney to serve as guardian ad litem for the child. The guardian ad litem shall make an independent investigation of the facts upon which the petition is based and shall appear for and represent the best interests of the child. When the child's position is not consistent with the determination of the guardian ad litem as to the child's best interests, the guardian ad litem shall inform the court of the disagreement. The guardian ad litem or the child may request the court to appoint a second attorney to serve as attorney for the child, and the court, on good cause shown, may appoint such second attorney. The attorney for the child shall allow the child and the guardian ad litem to communicate with one another but may require such communications to occur in the attorney's presence.
 - (c) An attorney appointed pursuant to this act shall be allowed a

reasonable fee for services.

- (d) As used in this section:
- (1) "Mentally ill person" means the same as in K.S.A. 59-2946, and amendments thereto; and
- (2) "disabled person" means the same as in K.S.A. 77-201, and amendments thereto.
- New Sec. 5. (a) (1) After the filing of a petition under this act, the court, on motion of the petitioner, may enter an order temporarily restraining the respondent from following, harassing, telephoning, contacting or otherwise communicating with the petitioner or the child during the pendency of the action. Such restraining order may be granted ex parte and may be served on the respondent by personal service. The respondent may request a hearing to modify the temporary order.
- (b) The court shall enter temporary orders regarding service of pleadings, motions and other documents between the parties.
- New Sec. 6. (a) (1) The court shall hear a petition to terminate the parent-child legal relationship of the respondent no more than 60 days after service of the petition or from the first appearance date, whichever is later, unless both parties consent to an extension or the court finds good cause to extend the hearing.
- (2) Parentage shall be determined pursuant to the Kansas parentage act, K.S.A. 23-2201 et seq., and amendments thereto.
- (b) If the parties consent, the court may enter an order of termination pursuant to this section with a finding of the elements required by subsection (c).
- (c) (1) Upon the finding of parentage, the court shall terminate the parent-child legal relationship of the respondent and issue a protective order preventing respondent from having future contact with the petitioner and the child if the court finds by clear and convincing evidence, and states the reasons for its decision, that:
- (A) The respondent committed an act of rape, aggravated indecent liberties or incest against the petitioner, as evidenced by either:
- (i) When a criminal conviction occurred, a showing that the respondent was convicted of an act of rape, aggravated indecent liberties or incest against the petitioner or was convicted of a crime in which the underlying factual basis was rape, aggravated indecent liberties or incest against the petitioner; or
- (ii) when a criminal conviction did not occur, clear and convincing evidence that the respondent committed an act of rape, indecent liberties or incest against the petitioner;
- (B) the child was conceived as a result of the act described in subparagraph (A); and
 - (C) termination of the parent-child relationship is in the best interests

of the child. There shall be a rebuttable presumption that terminating the parental rights of the parent who committed the act described in subparagraph (A) is in the best interests of the child. The court shall not presume that having only one remaining parent is contrary to the child's best interests.

- (2) If parentage cannot be established and the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the child was conceived as a result of the act described in subparagraph (A), the court shall enter an order granting sole legal custody to the petitioner and denying all contact between the child and the respondent.
- (e) Termination of the parent-child legal relationship pursuant to this section is an independent basis for termination of parental rights, and the court need not make any of the considerations or findings described in K.S.A. 59-2136, and amendments thereto, or K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 38-2269, and amendments thereto.
- New Sec. 7. (a) A termination of parental rights under this act shall not terminate the right of a child to inherit from or through a parent.
- (b) A respondent whose parental rights are terminated pursuant to this act has no right to:
- (1) The allocation of parental responsibilities, including legal custody, residency, parenting time or decision-making responsibilities for the child;
- (2) make medical treatment decisions or any other decisions on behalf of the child;
 - (3) inherit either from or through the child; and
 - (4) notification of, or standing to object to, the adoption of the child.
- (c) Termination of parental rights under this act shall not relieve the respondent of any obligation to pay child support, unless waived by the petitioner and approved by the court. In cases in which child support obligations are not waived, the court, as informed by the wishes of the petitioner, shall determine if entering an order to pay child support is in the best interests of the child. If an order of support is in the best interests of the child, the court shall determine the amount to be paid for child support by following the Kansas child support guidelines adopted by the supreme court pursuant to K.S.A. 20-165, and amendments thereto.
- (1) All child support payments shall be made through the Kansas payment center.
- (2) Modification of the child support order shall be pursuant to K.S.A. 23-3001 et seq., and amendments thereto.
- (3) If child support is ordered or terminated, a separate journal entry or judgment form shall be made and provided to the entity enforcing the child support by the clerk of the court. The journal entry or judgment form shall be entitled: "In the matter of _______(obligee's name) and (obligor's name)." The journal entry or judgment form shall

contain no reference to this proceeding except the facts necessary to establish personal jurisdiction over the parent, the name, date of birth and social security number of each child and findings of fact and conclusions of law directly related to the child support obligation.

- (4) Registration of the child support order shall be completed pursuant to K.S.A. 38-2279, and amendments thereto.
- (d)(1) The court may order a respondent whose parent-child legal relationship has been terminated to provide the respondent's genetic, medical and social history to be shared with the child, as appropriate, and with the petitioner. The court may order that a respondent's failure to comply with the request for information under this subsection in a timely manner constitutes contempt of court.
- (2) The Kansas department for children and families shall adopt rules and regulations establishing procedures to determine how the information is collected, who can access the information, when the information can be accessed, when and how the information is updated and how the information is stored.
- Sec. 8. K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 23-3203 is hereby amended to read as follows: 23-3203. (a) In determining the issue of legal custody, residency and parenting time of a child, the court shall consider all relevant factors, including, but not limited to:
- (1) Each parent's role and involvement with the minor child before and after separation;
 - (2) the desires of the child's parents as to custody or residency;
- (3) the desires of a child of sufficient age and maturity as to the child's custody or residency;
 - (4) the age of the child;
 - (5) the emotional and physical needs of the child;
- (6) the interaction and interrelationship of the child with parents, siblings and any other person who may significantly affect the child's best interests;
 - (7) the child's adjustment to the child's home, school and community;
- (8) the willingness and ability of each parent to respect and appreciate the bond between the child and the other parent and to allow for a continuing relationship between the child and the other parent;
 - (9) evidence of domestic abuse, including, but not limited to:
- (A) A pattern or history of physically or emotionally abusive behavior or threat thereof used by one person to gain or maintain domination and control over an intimate partner or household member; or
 - (B) an act of domestic violence, stalking or sexual assault;
 - (10) evidence of an act of sexual assault;
- (11) the ability of the parties to communicate, cooperate and manage parental duties;

- $\frac{(11)}{(12)}$ the school activity schedule of the child;
- $\frac{(12)}{(13)}$ the work schedule of the parties;
 - $\frac{(13)}{(14)}$ the location of the parties' residences and places of employment;
 - $\frac{(14)}{(15)}$ the location of the child's school;
 - (15)(16) whether a parent is subject to the registration requirements of the Kansas offender registration act, K.S.A. 22-4901 et seq., and amendments thereto, or any similar act in any other state, or under military or federal law;
 - (16)(17) whether a parent has been convicted of abuse of a child, K.S.A. 21-3609, prior to its repeal, or K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 21-5602, and amendments thereto;
 - (17)(18) whether a parent is residing with an individual who is subject to registration requirements of the Kansas offender registration act, K.S.A. 22-4901 et seq., and amendments thereto, or any similar act in any other state, or under military or federal law; and
 - (18)(19) whether a parent is residing with an individual who has been convicted of abuse of a child, K.S.A. 21-3609, prior to its repeal, or K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 21-5602, and amendments thereto.
 - (b) To aid in determining the issue of legal custody, residency and parenting time of a child, the court may order a parent to undergo a domestic violence offender assessment conducted by a certified batterer intervention program and may order such parent to follow all recommendations made by such program.
 - Sec. 9. K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 38-2269 is hereby amended to read as follows: 38-2269. (a) When the child has been adjudicated to be a child in need of care, the court may terminate parental rights or appoint a permanent custodian when the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the parent is unfit by reason of conduct or condition which renders the parent unable to care properly for a child and the conduct or condition is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future.
 - (b) In making a determination of unfitness the court shall consider, but is not limited to, the following, if applicable:
 - (1) Emotional illness, mental illness, mental deficiency or physical disability of the parent, of such duration or nature as to render the parent unable to care for the ongoing physical, mental and emotional needs of the child;
 - (2) conduct toward a child of a physically, emotionally or sexually cruel or abusive nature;
 - (3) the use of intoxicating liquors or narcotic or dangerous drugs of such duration or nature as to render the parent unable to care for the ongoing physical, mental or emotional needs of the child;
 - (4) physical, mental or emotional abuse or neglect or sexual abuse of

a child;

- (5) conviction of a felony and imprisonment;
- (6) unexplained injury or death of another child or stepchild of the parent or any child in the care of the parent at the time of injury or death;
- (7) failure of reasonable efforts made by appropriate public or private agencies to rehabilitate the family;
- (8) lack of effort on the part of the parent to adjust the parent's circumstances, conduct or conditions to meet the needs of the child; and
- (9) whether, as a result of the actions or inactions attributable to the parent and one or more of the factors listed in subsection (c) apply, the child has been in the custody of the secretary and placed with neither parent for 15 of the most recent 22 months beginning 60 days after the date on which a child in the secretary's custody was removed from the child's home.
- (c)(1) In addition to the foregoing, when a child is not in the physical custody of a parent, the court, shall consider, but is not limited to, the following:
- (1)(A) Failure to assure care of the child in the parental home when able to do so;
- $\frac{(2)}{(B)}$ failure to maintain regular visitation, contact or communication with the child or with the custodian of the child;
- (3)(C) failure to carry out a reasonable plan approved by the court directed toward the integration of the child into a parental home; and
- (4)(D) failure to pay a reasonable portion of the cost of substitute physical care and maintenance based on ability to pay.
- (2) In making the above determination, the court may disregard incidental visitations, contacts, communications or contributions.
- (d) A finding of unfitness may be made as provided in this section if the court finds that the parents have abandoned the child, the custody of the child was surrendered pursuant to K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 38-2282, and amendments thereto, or the child was left under such circumstances that the identity of the parents is unknown and cannot be ascertained, despite diligent searching, and the parents have not come forward to claim the child within three months after the child is found.
- (e) If a person is convicted of a felony in which sexual intercourse occurred, or if a juvenile is adjudicated a juvenile offender because of an act which, if committed by an adult, would be a felony in which sexual intercourse occurred, and as a result of the sexual intercourse, a child is conceived, A finding of unfitness may be made as provided in this section if the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that a parent has committed one of the following acts, or a comparable act under the laws of another jurisdiction, which resulted in the conception of the child:
 - (1) Rape, K.S.A. 21-3502, prior to its repeal, or K.S.A. 2019 Supp.

21-5503, and amendments thereto;

- (2) aggravated indecent liberties, K.S.A. 21-3504, prior to its repeal, or K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 21-5506(b)(1), and amendments thereto, unless the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the act involved nonforcible conduct, both parties were at least 14 years of age and neither party was more than four years older than the other party; or
- (3) incest, K.S.A. 21-3602 or 21-3603, prior to their repeal, or K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 21-6504 **21-5604**, and amendments thereto.
- (f) The existence of any one of the above factors standing alone may, but does not necessarily, establish grounds for termination of parental rights.
- (g) (1) If the court makes a finding of unfitness, the court shall consider whether termination of parental rights as requested in the petition or motion is in the best interests of the child. In making the determination, the court shall give primary consideration to the physical, mental and emotional health of the child. If the physical, mental or emotional needs of the child would best be served by termination of parental rights, the court shall so order. A termination of parental rights under the code shall not terminate the right of a child to inherit from or through a parent. Upon such termination all rights of the parent to such child, including, such parent's right to inherit from or through such child, shall cease.
- (2) If the court terminates parental rights, the court may authorize adoption pursuant to K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 38-2270, and amendments thereto, appointment of a permanent custodian pursuant to K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 38-2272, and amendments thereto, or continued permanency planning.
- (3) If the court does not terminate parental rights, the court may authorize appointment of a permanent custodian pursuant to K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 38-2272, and amendments thereto, or continued permanency planning.
- (h) If a parent is convicted of an offense as provided in K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 38-2271(a)(7), and amendments thereto, or is adjudicated a juvenile offender because of an act, which if committed by an adult, would be an offense as provided in K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 38-2271(a)(7), and amendments thereto, and if the victim was the other parent of a child, the court may disregard such convicted or adjudicated parent's opinions or wishes in regard to the placement of such child.
 - (i) A record shall be made of the proceedings.
- (j) When adoption, proceedings to appoint a permanent custodian or continued permanency planning has been authorized, the person or agency awarded custody of the child shall within 30 days submit a written plan for permanent placement which shall include measurable objectives and time schedules.

- Sec. 10. K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 38-2271 is hereby amended to read as follows: 38-2271. (a) It is presumed in the manner provided in K.S.A. 60-414, and amendments thereto, that a parent is unfit by reason of conduct or condition which renders the parent unable to fully care for a child, if the state establishes, by clear and convincing evidence, that:
- (1) A parent has previously been found to be an unfit parent in proceedings under K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 38-2266 et seq., and amendments thereto, or comparable proceedings under the laws of another jurisdiction;
- (2) a parent has twice before been convicted of a crime specified in article 34, 35, or 36 of chapter 21 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, prior to their repeal, or articles 54, 55 or 56 of chapter 21 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, or K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 21-6104, 21-6325, 21-6326 or 21-6418 through 21-6421, and amendments thereto, or comparable offenses under the laws of another jurisdiction, or an attempt or attempts to commit such crimes and the victim was under the age of 18 years;
- (3) on two or more prior occasions a child in the physical custody of the parent has been adjudicated a child in need of care as defined by K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 38-2202(d)(1), (d)(3), (d)(5) or (d)(11), and amendments thereto, or comparable proceedings under the laws of another jurisdiction;
- (4) the parent has been convicted of causing the death of another child or stepchild of the parent;
- (5) the child has been in an out-of-home placement, under court order for a cumulative total period of one year or longer and the parent has substantially neglected or willfully refused to carry out a reasonable plan, approved by the court, directed toward reintegration of the child into the parental home;
- (6) (A) the child has been in an out-of-home placement, under court order for a cumulative total period of two years or longer; (B) the parent has failed to carry out a reasonable plan, approved by the court, directed toward reintegration of the child into the parental home; and (C) there is a substantial probability that the parent will not carry out such plan in the near future;
- (7) a parent has been convicted of capital murder, K.S.A. 21-3439, prior to its repeal, or K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 21-5401, and amendments thereto, murder in the first degree, K.S.A. 21-3401, prior to its repeal, or K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 21-5402, and amendments thereto, murder in the second degree, K.S.A. 21-3402, prior to its repeal, or K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 21-5403, and amendments thereto, voluntary manslaughter, K.S.A. 21-3403, prior to its repeal, or K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 21-5404, and amendments thereto, human trafficking or aggravated human trafficking, K.S.A. 21-3446 or 21-3447, prior to their repeal, or K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 21-5426, and amendments thereto, or commercial sexual exploitation of a child, K.S.A.

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2019 Supp. 21-6422, and amendments thereto, or comparable proceedings under the laws of another jurisdiction or, has been adjudicated a juvenile offender because of an act, which if committed by an adult, would be an offense as provided in this subsection, and the victim of such murder was the other parent of the child;

- (8) a parent abandoned or neglected the child after having knowledge of the child's birth or either parent has been granted immunity from prosecution for abandonment of the child under K.S.A. 21-3604(b), prior to its repeal, or K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 21-5605(d), and amendments thereto; or
- (9) a parent has made no reasonable efforts to support or communicate with the child after having knowledge of the child's birth;
- a father, after having knowledge of the pregnancy, failed without reasonable cause to provide support for the mother during the six months prior to the child's birth;
- (11) a father abandoned the mother after having knowledge of the pregnancy;
- (12) a parent has been-convicted of shown to have committed one of the following acts, or a comparable act under the laws of another jurisdiction, which resulted in the conception of the child:
- (A) Rape, K.S.A. 21-3502, prior to its repeal, or K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 21-5503, and amendments thereto, or comparable proceedings under the laws of another jurisdiction resulting in the conception of the child;
- (B) aggravated indecent liberties, K.S.A. 21-3504, prior to its repeal, or K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 21-5506(b)(1), and amendments thereto, unless the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the act involved nonforcible conduct, both parties were at least 14 years of age and neither party was more than four years older than the other party; or
- (C) incest, K.S.A. 21-3602 or 21-3603, prior to their repeal, or K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 21-5604, and amendments thereto; or
- (13) a parent has failed or refused to assume the duties of a parent for two consecutive years next preceding the filing of the petition. In making this determination the court may disregard incidental visitations, contacts, communications or contributions.
- (b) The burden of proof is on the parent to rebut the presumption of unfitness by a preponderance of the evidence. In the absence of proof that the parent is presently fit and able to care for the child or that the parent will be fit and able to care for the child in the foreseeable future, the court shall terminate parental rights in proceedings pursuant to K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 38-2266 et seq., and amendments thereto.
- 41 Sec. 11. K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 23-3203, 38-2269 and 38-2271 are 42 hereby repealed. 43
 - This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its Sec 12

1 publication in the statute book.