
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1022 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY KORTZ, BERNSTINE, READSHAW, DOWLING, HILL-EVANS
AND KEEFER, APRIL 2, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, APRIL 2, 2019

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in child protective services, further
3 providing for exclusions from child abuse.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Section 6304 of Title 23 of the Pennsylvania
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a subsection to read:
8 § 6304. Exclusions from child abuse.

9 * * *

10 (d.1) Supervision and independent activities.--

11 (1) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to
12 restrict the rights of a parent to determine the level of
13 supervision given to a child in a manner that is appropriate
14 considering the child's developmental age and abilities. A
15 parent may permit a child of sufficient age and maturity to
16 avoid harm or unreasonable risk of harm to engage in
17 independent activities, including the following:

18 (i) traveling to and from school, including by

1 walking, running or bicycling;

2 (ii) traveling to and from nearby commercial or
3 recreational facilities;

4 (iii) engaging in outdoor play;

5 (iv) remaining in a vehicle unattended,
6 notwithstanding 75 Pa.C.S. § 3701.1 (relating to leaving
7 an unattended child in a motor vehicle);

8 (v) remaining at home unattended; or

9 (vi) engaging in a similar independent activity.

10 (2) A decision by a parent relating to supervision or
11 independent activities of a child under paragraph (1) shall
12 not constitute child abuse.

13 * * *

14 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.