



**2017 Edition**

## **Glossary of Connecticut Family Law Terms**

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### **-A-**

**ABANDONMENT DEFENSE**—“Abandonment without cause by a spouse shall be a defense to any liability pursuant to the provisions of subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section for expenses incurred by and for the benefit of such spouse. Nothing in this subsection shall affect the duty of a parent to support his or her minor child.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-37](#)(e) (2017).

**ABANDONMENT OF SPOUSE**—“Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, a spouse who abandons his or her spouse without cause shall be liable for the reasonable support of such other spouse while abandoned.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-37](#)(c) (2017).

**ABUSED**—“A child or youth may be found ‘abused’ who (A) has been inflicted with physical injury or injuries other than by accidental means, (B) has injuries that are at variance with the history given of them, or (C) is in a condition that is the result of maltreatment, including, but not limited to, malnutrition, sexual molestation or exploitation, deprivation of necessities, emotional maltreatment or cruel punishment.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-120](#)(7) (2017).

**ADOPTABLE PERSON**—“means a person who has not been adopted but whose biological parents had their parental rights terminated under the laws of the state of Connecticut.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [45a-743](#)(1) (2017).

**ADOPTED PERSON**—“means (A) a person who was adopted under the laws of the state of Connecticut or (B) a person who was adopted in another jurisdiction but whose biological parents have had their parental rights terminated in the state of Connecticut.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [45a-743](#)(2) (2017).

**ADOPTION**—“means the establishment by court order of the legal relationship of parent and child.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [45a-707](#)(a) (2017).

**ADOPTION AGREEMENT**—“To complete an adoption . . . there must be an agreement to give and receive the child in adoption . . . The fundamental basis of the proceeding is the agreement. If the purported agreement is void, there is nothing which the Probate Court can approve.” [Killen v. Klebanoff](#), 140 Conn. 111, 115-116, 98 A.2d 520, 522 (1953).

**ADOPTION ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT**—“means a written agreement, binding on the parties to the agreement, between the State agency, other relevant agencies, and the prospective adoptive parents of a minor child which at a minimum (A) specifies the nature and amount of any payments, services, and assistance to be provided under such agreement, and (B) stipulates that the agreement shall remain in effect regardless of the State of which the adoptive parents are residents at any given time. The agreement shall contain provisions for the protection (under an interstate compact approved by the Secretary or otherwise) of the interests of the child in cases where the adoptive parents and child move to another State while the agreement is effective.” [42 U.S.C. §675\(3\)](#).

**ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**—[42 USC §673](#).

**ADOPTION REVIEW BOARD**—“(a) . . . the Adoption Review Board may, upon application, notice and hearing as hereinafter provided, for cause shown that it is in the best interests of the minor child, waive the requirement that the minor child be placed by the Commissioner of Children and Families or a child-placing agency.

(b) Any judge of probate who has had presented to him an application for adoption which may not proceed because the child has not been so placed may apply in writing to the Adoption Review Board for a waiver of such requirement.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [45a-764](#) (2017).

**ADOPTION SUBSIDY REVIEW BOARD**—“Subsidies for adopting parents. Adoption Subsidy Review Board.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [17a-117](#) (2017).

**ADULT ADOPTION**—“Any person eighteen years of age or older may, by written agreement with another person at least eighteen years of age but younger than himself or herself, unless the other person is his or her wife, husband, brother, sister, uncle or aunt of the whole or half-blood, adopt the other person as his or her child, provided the written agreement shall be approved by the court of probate for the district in which the adopting parent resides or, if the adopting parent is not an inhabitant of this state, for the district in which the adopted person resides.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [45a-734](#)(a) (2017).

**ADULTERY (Definition)**—“means voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and a person other than such person’s spouse.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-40](#)(f) (2017).

**ADULTERY (Grounds)**—“A decree of dissolution of a marriage or a decree of legal separation shall be granted upon a finding that one of the following causes has occurred: (3) adultery.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-40](#)(c)(3) (2017).

**ADULTERY AND ALIMONY**—“Adultery is not listed as a factor to be considered unless it is one of the causes for the dissolution of marriage.” [Venuti v. Venuti](#), 185 Conn. 156, 158, 440 A.2d 878, 880 (1981).

**AGENCY PLACEMENT**—“An application for the adoption of a minor child not related to the adoptive parents shall not be accepted by the Court of Probate unless (A) the child sought to be adopted has been placed for adoption by the Commissioner of Children and Families or a child-placing agency, and the placement for adoption has been approved by the commissioner or a child-placing agency; (B) the placement requirements of this section have been waived by the Adoption Review Board as provided in section 45a-764; (C) the application is for adoption of a minor child by a stepparent as provided in section 45a-733; or (D) the application is for adoption of a child by another person who shares parental responsibility for the child with the parent as provided in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 45a-724. The commissioner or a child-placing agency may place a child in adoption who has been identified or located by a prospective parent, provided any such placement shall be made in accordance with regulations promulgated by the commissioner pursuant to

section 45a-728. If any such placement is not made in accordance with such regulations, the adoption application shall not be approved by the Court of Probate." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [45a-727](#)(a)(3) (2017).

**AGO**—"means the Connecticut Attorney General's office, or any assistant attorney general within such office who is responsible for performing any IV-D function in accordance with the cooperative agreement between the department and such office." Conn. Regs. § [17b-179\(a\)-1](#)(1).

**ALIENATION OF AFFECTIONS**—"This is a tort based upon willful and malicious interference with the marriage relation by a third party, without justification or excuse . . . . By definition, it includes and embraces mental anguish, loss of social position, disgrace, humiliation and embarrassment, as well as actual pecuniary loss due to destruction or **disruption of marriage relationship and the loss of financial support, if any.**" [Donnell v. Donnell](#), 415 S.W.2d 127, 132 (Tenn. 1967).

**ALIMONY (Definition)**—"Money a court requires one spouse to pay the other spouse for support before and/or after the divorce is granted. If you do not ask for alimony at the final hearing, you can never get it in the future." [State of Connecticut Judicial Branch Common Legal Words](#).

"An award of alimony is based primarily on a spouse's continuing duty to support." [Martone v. Martone](#), 28 Conn. App. 208, 216, 611 A.2d 896, 900 (1992).

**ALIMONY (Factors)**—"In determining whether alimony shall be awarded, and the duration and amount of the award, the court shall consider the evidence presented by each party and shall consider the length of the marriage, the causes for the annulment, dissolution of the marriage or legal separation, the age, health, station, occupation, amount and sources of income, earning capacity, vocational skills, education, employability, estate and needs of each of the parties and the award, if any, which the court may make pursuant to section 46b-81, and, in the case of a parent to whom the custody of minor children has been awarded, the desirability and feasibility of such parent's securing employment." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-82](#)(a) (2017).

**ALIMONY ORDER**—"At the time of entering the decree, the Superior Court may order either of the parties to pay alimony to the other, in addition to or in lieu of an award pursuant to section 46b-81. The order may direct that security be given therefor on such terms as the court may deem desirable, including an order pursuant to subsection (b) of this section or an order to either party to contract with a third party for periodic payments or payments contingent on a life to the other party. The court may order that a party obtain life insurance as such security unless such party proves, by a preponderance of the evidence, that such insurance is not available to such party, such party is unable to pay the cost of such insurance or such party is uninsurable." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-82](#)(a) (2017).

**ALIMONY PENDENTE LITE**—"means alimony or maintenance 'pending litigation' and is payable during the pendency of a divorce proceeding so as to enable a dependent spouse to proceed with or defend against the action." [Jayne v. Jayne](#), 663 A.2d 169, 176 (Pa. Super. 1995).

**ANTENUPTIAL AGREEMENT** (or prenuptial agreement or premarital agreement)—"means an agreement between prospective spouses made in contemplation of marriage." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-36b](#) (2017).

**ARREARAGE**—"means either one or a combination of (A) court ordered current support payments which have become due and payable and remain unpaid; and (B) support due for

past periods that has been found owing by a court of competent jurisdiction, whether or not presently payable." Conn. Regs. § [17b-179b-1](#)(1).

**ASSISTANCE CASE**—"one in which the recipient of IV-D services is receiving benefits under the TFA [Temporary Family Assistance program] or foster care programs, or the federal waiver granted under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act." Conn. Regs. § [17b-179\(a\)-1](#)(2).

## -B-

**BCSE**—[Public Act No. 16-13](#) renamed the Bureau of Child Support Enforcement (BCSE) to the Office of Child Support Services (OCSS).

**BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD STANDARD IN CONNECTICUT**—"Orders re custody, care, education, visitation and support of children. Best interests of the child. Access to records of minor child by noncustodial parent. Orders re therapy, counseling and drug or alcohol screening." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-56](#) (2017). *See Also:* [Best Interest of the Child Standard in Connecticut](#) (Research Guide).

**BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD STANDARD IN RELOCATION CASES**—"In any proceeding before the Superior Court arising after the entry of a judgment awarding custody of a minor child and involving the relocation of either parent with the child, where such relocation would have a significant impact on an existing parenting plan, the relocating parent shall bear the burden of proving, by a preponderance of the evidence, that (1) the relocation is for a legitimate purpose, (2) the proposed location is reasonable in light of such purpose, and (3) the relocation is in the best interests of the child." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-56d](#)(a) (2017).

"In making or modifying any order as provided in subsection (a) of this section, the rights and responsibilities of both parents shall be considered and the court shall enter orders accordingly that serve the best interests of the child and provide the child with the active and consistent involvement of both parents commensurate with their abilities and interests. Such orders may include, but shall not be limited to: (1) Approval of a parental responsibility plan agreed to by the parents pursuant to section 46b-56a; (2) the award of joint parental responsibility of a minor child to both parents, which shall include (A) provisions for residential arrangements with each parent in accordance with the needs of the child and the parents, and (B) provisions for consultation between the parents and for the making of major decisions regarding the child's health, education and religious upbringing; (3) the award of sole custody to one parent with appropriate parenting time for the noncustodial parent where sole custody is in the best interests of the child; or (4) any other custody arrangements as the court may determine to be in the best interests of the child." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-56](#)(b) (2017). *See Also:* [Parental Relocation](#) (Research Guide).

**BIOLOGICAL PARENT**—"means the biological mother or father of a person." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [45a-743](#)(6) (2017).

**BIRTH CERTIFICATE**—"Not later than ten days after each live birth which occurs in this state, a birth certificate shall be filed with the registrar of vital statistics in the town in which the birth occurred and the certificate shall be registered if properly filed, by manual or electronic systems as prescribed by the commissioner. On and after January 1, 1994, each hospital with two hundred or more live births in calendar year 1990, or any subsequent

calendar year, shall electronically transmit birth information data to the department in a computer format approved by the department. Each birth certificate shall contain such information as the department may require and shall be completed in its entirety. Medical and health information which is required by the department, including information regarding voluntary acknowledgments of paternity and whether the child was born out of wedlock, shall be recorded on a confidential portion of the certificate to be sent directly to the department. Such confidential records may be used for statistical and health purposes by the department or by a local director of health, as authorized by the department, for records related to the town served by the local director of health and where the mother was a resident at the time of the birth of the child. Such birth certificate and confidential records may be used internally by the hospital for records transmitted by the hospital for statistical, health and quality assurance purposes. The department shall give due consideration to national uniformity in vital statistics in prescribing the format and content of such certificate." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [7-48\(a\)](#) (2017).

## -C-

**CCSES**—"means the Connecticut Child Support Enforcement System, the automated system used by BCSE and its cooperating agencies to collect and distribute child support and **maintain related records.**" Conn. Regs. § [17b-179\(a\)-1\(5\)](#). [Note: [Public Act No. 16-13](#) renamed the Bureau of Child Support Enforcement (BCSE) to the Office of Child Support Services (OCSS)].

**CHILD**—"means any person under eighteen years of age who has not been legally emancipated, except that (A) for purposes of delinquency matters **and proceedings**, 'child' means any person who (i) is at least seven years of age at the time of the alleged commission of a delinquent act and who is (I) under eighteen years of age and has not been legally emancipated, or (II) eighteen years of age or older and committed a delinquent act prior to attaining eighteen years of age, or (ii) is subsequent to attaining eighteen years of age, (I) violates any order of the Superior Court or any condition of probation ordered by the Superior Court with respect to a delinquency proceeding, or (II) wilfully fails to appear in response to a summons under section 46b-133 or at any other court hearing in a delinquency proceeding of which the child had notice, and (B) for purposes of family with service needs matters and proceedings, child means a person who is at least seven years of age and is under eighteen years of age." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-120\(1\)](#) (2017).

**Contrasted with YOUTH**—"means any person sixteen or seventeen years of age who has not been legally emancipated." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-120\(2\)](#) (2017).

**CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REGISTRY.** Conn. Regs. §§ [17a-101k-1 thru 17a-101k-16](#).

**CHILD CUSTODY DETERMINATION**—"means a judgment, decree, or other order of a court providing for the legal custody, physical custody or visitation with respect to a child. The term includes a permanent, temporary, initial and modification order. The term does not include an order relating to child support or other monetary obligation of an individual." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-115a\(3\)](#) (2017).

**Compare with: FOREIGN MATRIMONIAL JUDGMENTS.**

**CHILD-PLACING AGENCY**—"means any agency within or without the state of Connecticut licensed or approved by the Commissioner of Children and Families in accordance with sections 17a-149 and 17a-151, and in accordance with such standards which shall be

established by regulations of the Department of Children and Families.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [17a-93](#)(7) (2017).

**CHILD SUPPORT AND ARREARAGE GUIDELINES**—“means the rules, principles, schedule and worksheet established under sections 46b-215a-1, 46b-215a-2b, 46b-215a-3, 46b-215a-4a and 46b-215a-5b of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies for the determination of an appropriate child support award, to be used when initially establishing or modifying both temporary and permanent orders.” Conn. Regs. § [46b-215a-1](#)(5).

**COHABITATION**—“is a dwelling together of man and woman in the same place in the manner of husband and wife.” [Wolk v. Wolk](#), 191 Conn. 328, 332, 464 A.2d 780, 784 (1983).

**CONTEMPT**—“is a disobedience to the rules and orders of a court which has power to punish for such an offense . . . A civil contempt is one in which the conduct constituting the contempt is directed against some civil right of an opposing party and the proceeding is initiated by him.” [State v. Jackson](#), 147 Conn. 167, 168-169, 158 A.2d 166, 167 (1960).

**COMMITMENT OF CHILD OR YOUTH**—“Upon finding and adjudging that any child or youth is uncared for, neglected or abused the court may (A) commit such child or youth to the Commissioner of Children and Families, and such commitment shall remain in effect until further order of the court, except that such commitment may be revoked or parental rights terminated at any time by **the court**; (B) **vest such child’s or youth’s** legal guardianship in any private or public agency that is permitted by law to care for neglected, uncared for or abused children or youths or with any other person or persons found to be suitable and worthy of such responsibility by the court, including, but not limited to, any relative of such child or youth by blood or marriage; (C) **vest such child’s or youth’s** permanent legal guardianship in any person or persons found to be suitable and worthy of such responsibility by the court, including, but not limited to, any relative of such child or youth by blood or marriage in accordance with the requirements set forth in subdivision (5) of this subsection; or (D) place the child or youth in the custody of the parent or guardian with protective supervision by the Commissioner of Children and Families subject to conditions established by the court.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-129](#)(j)(2) (2017).

#### **CONFIDENTIALITY OF AND ACCESS TO RECORDS—**

- o Adoption records. Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ [45a-743 to 45a-757](#) (2017).
- o Child abuse and neglect. Conn. Gen. Stat. § [17a-28](#) (2017).

**COURTSHIP GIFTS**—“A minority of jurisdictions has adopted a ‘no-fault’ approach, i.e., the modern trend, holding that once an engagement is broken, the engagement ring should be **returned to the donor, regardless of fault.**” [Thorndike v. Demirs](#), Superior Court, Judicial District of Waterbury at Waterbury, No. CV055000243S (July 26, 2007) (44 Conn. L. Rptr. 30) (2007 Conn. Super. Lexis 1944) (2007 WL 2363411).

**CUSTODIAL PARENT**—“means the parent who provides the child’s primary residence.” Conn. Regs. § [46b-215a-1](#)(8).

**CUSTODIAL PARTY**—“means the individual who has physical custody of a child, or, in foster care cases, the Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families.” Conn. Regs. § [17b-179\(a\)-1](#)(8).

**-D-**

**DCF**—[Department of Children and Families](#).

**DELINQUENT**—“(A) A child may be convicted as ‘delinquent’ who has, while under sixteen years of age, (i) violated any federal or state law, except section 53a-172, 53a-173, 53a-222, 53a-222a, 53a-223 or 53a-223a, or violated a municipal or local ordinance, except an ordinance regulating behavior of a child in a family with service needs, (ii) wilfully failed to appear in response to a summons under section 46b-133 or at any other court hearing in a delinquency proceeding of which the child had notice, (iii) violated any order of the Superior Court in a delinquency proceeding, except as provided in section 46b-148, or (iv) violated conditions of probation in a delinquency proceeding as ordered by the court;

(B) A child may be convicted as ‘delinquent’ who has (i) while sixteen or seventeen years of age, violated any federal or state law, other than (I) an infraction, except an infraction under subsection (d) of section 21a-267, (II) a violation, except a violation under subsection (a) of section 21a-279a, (III) a motor vehicle offense or violation under title 14, (IV) a violation of a municipal or local ordinance, or (V) a violation of section 51-164r, 53a-172, 53a-173, 53a-222, 53a-222a, 53a-223 or 53a-223a, (ii) while sixteen years of age or older, wilfully failed to appear in response to a summons under section 46b-133 or at any other court hearing in a delinquency proceeding of which the child had notice, (iii) while sixteen years of age or older, violated any order of the Superior Court in a delinquency proceeding, except as provided in section 46b-148, or (iv) while sixteen years of age or older, violated conditions of probation in a delinquency proceeding as ordered by the court.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-120](#)(4) (2017).

**DELINQUENT ACT**—“means (A) the violation by a child under the age of sixteen of any federal or state law, except the violation of section 53a-172, 53a-173, 53a-222, 53a-222a, 53a-223 or 53a-223a, or the violation of a municipal or local ordinance, except an ordinance regulating behavior of a child in a family with service needs, (B) the violation by a child sixteen or seventeen years of age of any federal or state law, other than (i) an infraction, except an infraction under subsection (d) of section 21a-267, (ii) a violation, except a violation under subsection (a) of section 21a-279a, (iii) a motor vehicle offense or violation under title 14, (iv) the violation of a municipal or local ordinance, or (v) the violation of section 51-164r, 53a-172, 53a-173, 53a-222, 53a-222a, 53a-223 or 53a-223a, (C) the wilful failure of a child, including a child who has attained the age of eighteen, to appear in response to a summons under section 46b-133 or at any other court hearing in a delinquency proceeding of which the child has notice, (D) the violation of any order of the Superior Court in a delinquency proceeding by a child, including a child who has attained the age of eighteen, except as provided in section 46b-148, or (E) the violation of conditions of probation in a delinquency proceeding by a child, including a child who has attained the age of eighteen, as ordered by the court.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-120](#)(9) (2017).

**DEPENDENT**—“means a spouse or child for whom a parent is legally responsible under state law.” Conn. Regs. § [46b-215a-1](#)(9).

**DEVIATION CRITERIA**—“means those facts or circumstances specified in section 46b-215a-3 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, which may justify an order different from the presumptive support amounts.” Conn. Regs. § [46b-215a-1](#)(10).

**DISCRETION EXERCISED BY THE TRIAL COURT**—“While a trial court must consider a number of factors in awarding alimony and distributing the assets of the parties, and my exercise broad discretion in that consideration . . . it need not recite each factor in its decision, it is sufficient that the memorandum of decision ‘at least reflect a proper consideration and weighing of the factors set forth in the statute.’” [Siracusa v. Siracusa](#), 30 Conn. App. 560, 564, 621 A.2d 309, 312 (1993).

**DRUG-DEPENDENT CHILD**—“means a psychoactive substance dependence on drugs as that condition is defined in the most recent edition of the American Psychiatric Association’s ‘Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders’. No child shall be classified as drug-dependent who is dependent (A) upon a morphine-type substance as an incident to current medical treatment of a demonstrable physical disorder other than drug dependence, or (B) upon amphetamine-type, ataractic, barbiturate-type, hallucinogenic or other stimulant and depressant substances as an incident to current medical treatment of a demonstrable physical or psychological disorder, or both, other than drug dependence.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-120](#)(14) (2017).

**DUTY TO SUPPORT SPOUSE**—“An award of alimony is based primarily on a spouse’s continuing duty to support . . . General Statutes § 46b-82 governs the award of alimony and specifically states it may be in addition to a property distribution award . . .” [Martone v. Martone](#), 28 Conn. App. 208, 216, 611 A.2d 896, 900 (1992).

## -E-

**EMPLOYERS PROHIBITED FROM DISCRIMINATION** (against witness in child abuse proceedings)—Conn. Gen. Stat. § [17a-101e](#) (2017).

**ENFORCEMENT OF CHILD CUSTODY DETERMINATION**—“A court of this state shall recognize and enforce, but not modify except in accordance with section 46b-115m, a child custody determination of a court of another state if (1) the court of the other state exercised jurisdiction under a provision substantially similar to section 46b-115k, 46b-115l or 46b-115m, the determination was made under factual circumstances meeting the jurisdictional standards of this chapter and the determination has not been modified in accordance with this chapter, or (2) the child custody determination was registered in this state pursuant to section 46b-115w. A child custody determination which satisfies the criteria in subdivision (1) or (2) of this section shall have the same effect and shall be enforced in the same manner as a child custody determination rendered by the Superior Court.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-115x](#) (2017).

**ENGAGEMENT RING, RETURN OF**—“A minority of jurisdictions has adopted a ‘no-fault’ approach, i.e., the modern trend, holding that once an engagement is broken, the engagement ring should be returned to the donor, regardless of fault.” [Thorndike v. Demirs](#), Superior Court, Judicial District of Waterbury at Waterbury, No. CV055000243S (July 26, 2007) (44 Conn. L. Rptr. 30) (2007 Conn. Super. Lexis 1944) (2007 WL 2363411). See *Also*: [Return of Engagement Ring and Courtship Gifts](#) (Research Guide).

## -F-

**FALSE ALLEGATIONS OF CHILD ABUSE**—False report of child abuse.

**FAMILY WITH SERVICE NEEDS (effective August 15, 2017)**—“means a family that includes a child who is at least seven years of age and is under eighteen years of age who (A) has without just cause run away from the parental home or other properly authorized and lawful place of abode, (B) is beyond the control of the child’s or youth’s parent, parents, guardian or other custodian, (C) has engaged in indecent or immoral conduct, or (D) is thirteen years of age or older and has engaged in sexual intercourse with another person



and such other person is thirteen years of age or older and not more than two years older or younger than such child.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-120](#)(5) (2017).

**FAULT IN MARITAL BREAKUP**—“In determining whether alimony shall be awarded, and the duration and amount of the award, the court shall hear the witnesses, if any, of each party, except as provided in subsection (a) of section 46b-51, shall consider the length of the marriage, the causes for the annulment, dissolution of the marriage or legal separation, the age, health, station, occupation, amount and sources of income, vocational skills, employability, estate and needs of each of the parties and the award, if any, which the court may make pursuant to section 46b-81, and, in the case of a parent to whom the custody of minor children has been awarded, the desirability of such parent’s securing employment.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-82](#) (2017).

**FETAL ENDANGERMENT**—Abuse or neglect of an unborn child and the extent to which a parent may be held accountable for prenatal injury.

**FOREIGN MATRIMONIAL JUDGMENT**—“means any judgment, decree or order of a court of any state in the United States in an action for divorce, legal separation, annulment or dissolution of marriage, for the custody, care, education, visitation, maintenance or support of children or for alimony, support or the disposition of property of the parties to an existing or terminated marriage, in which both parties have entered an appearance.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-70](#) (2017). *NOTE: If unmarried, see CHILD CUSTODY DETERMINATION.*

**FOSTER FAMILY**—“means a person or persons, licensed by the Department of Children and Families or approved by a licensed child-placing agency, for the care of a child or children in a private home.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [17a-93](#)(13) (2017).

**FPLS**—“means the [Federal Parent Locator Service](#) operated by OCSE[the [Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement](#)].” Conn. Regs. § [17b-179\(a\)-1](#)(10).

**IV-D**—“the child support enforcement program mandated by Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act and implementing OCSE regulations, as implemented in Connecticut under section 17b-179 of the Connecticut General Statutes and related statutes and regulations.” Conn. Regs. § [17b-179\(a\)-1](#)(11).

**FRAUDULENT CONVEYANCES**—A transfer of properties intended to defraud. See [Farrell v. Farrell](#), 36 Conn. App. 305, 650 A.2d 608 (1994).

## -G-

**GUARDIANSHIP OF A MINOR**—“means guardianship, unless otherwise specified, of the person of a minor and refers to the obligation of care and control, the right to custody and the duty and authority to make major decisions affecting such minor’s welfare, including, but not limited to, consent determinations regarding marriage, enlistment in the armed forces and major medical, psychiatric or surgical treatment.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [17a-93](#)(4) (2017).

## -H-

**HABITUAL INTEMPERANCE**—“In an action for dissolution of a marriage or a legal separation on the ground of habitual intemperance, it shall be sufficient if the cause of

action is proved to have existed until the time of the separation of the parties.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-40](#)(d) (2017).

**HEART BALM STATUTE**—“The predominant view is that Heart Balm statutes should be applied no further than to bar actions for damages suffered from loss of marriage, humiliation, and other direct consequences of the breach, and should not affect the rights and duties determinable by common law principles.” [Piccininni v. Hajus](#), 180 Conn. 369, 372, 429 A.2d 886, 888 (1980). *See Also*: Conn. Gen. Stat. § [52-572b](#) (2017).

**HOME VISIT**—“The investigation [of child abuse and neglect] shall include a home visit at which the child and any siblings are observed, if appropriate, a determination of the nature, extent and cause or causes of the reported abuse or neglect, a determination of the person or persons suspected to be responsible for such abuse or neglect, the name, age and condition of other children residing in the same household and an evaluation of the parents and the home. The report of such investigation shall be in writing.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [17a-101g](#)(b) (2017).

## -I-

**IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY** (reports of child abuse and neglect)—“Any person, institution or agency which, in good faith, makes, or in good faith does not make, the report pursuant to sections 17a-101a to 17a-101d, inclusive, and 17a-103 shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal, which might otherwise be incurred or imposed and shall have the same immunity with respect to any judicial proceeding which results from such report provided such person did not perpetrate or cause such abuse or neglect.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [17a-101e](#)(b) (2017).

**INABILITY TO PAY**—“In the contempt proceedings before the family support magistrate, the magistrate acknowledged that inability to pay an order is a defense to a charge of contempt.” [Perry v. Perry](#), 222 Conn. 799, 805, 611 A.2d 400, 403 (1992).

**INDIAN CHILD PROTECTION AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT**—[25 U.S.C. §§3201](#) et seq.

**IN PERSONAM JURISDICTION**—“the court acquired no jurisdiction to render a judgment . . . binding the defendant personally, since he was a nonresident on whom personal service had not been made, although it did have jurisdiction in rem over the attached realty. An order directing the payment of alimony or support is a judgment in personam.” [Robertson v. Robertson](#), 164 Conn. 140, 143-144, 318 A.2d 106, 108 (1972).

**INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS**—“to prevail in a case for liability under . . . [the intentional infliction of emotional distress], four elements must be established. It must be shown: (1) that the actor intended to inflict emotional distress; or that he knew or should have known that emotional distress was a likely result of his conduct; (2) that the conduct was extreme and outrageous; (3) that the defendant’s conduct was the cause of the plaintiff’s distress and (4) that the emotional distress sustained by the plaintiff was severe.” [Petryan v. Ellis](#), 200 Conn. 243, 253, 510 A.2d 1337, 1342 (1986).

**INTERSTATE COMPACT ON THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN**—Conn. Gen. Stat. § [17a-175](#) (2017).

## -J-

**JOINT DUTY OF SUPPORT**—“. . . it shall be the joint duty of each spouse to support his or her family, and both shall be liable for: (1) The reasonable and necessary services of a physician or dentist; (2) hospital expenses rendered the husband or wife or minor child while residing in the family of his or her parents; (3) the rental of any dwelling unit actually occupied by the husband and wife as a residence and reasonably necessary to them for that purpose; and (4) any article purchased by either which has in fact gone to the support of the family, or for the joint benefit of both.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-37](#)(b) (2017).

## -L-

**LACHES**—“. . . consists of two elements. First, there must have been a delay that was inexcusable, and, second, that delay must have prejudiced the defendant.” [Kurzatkowski v. Kurzatkowski](#), 142 Conn. 680, 684-685, 116 A.2d 906, 908 (1955).

**LONG ARM STATUTE** (giving Connecticut courts jurisdiction over nonresident party)—“The court may exercise personal jurisdiction over the nonresident party as to all matters concerning temporary or permanent alimony or support of children, only if: (1) The nonresident party has received actual notice under subsection (a) of this section; and (2) the party requesting alimony meets the residency requirement of section 46b-44.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-46](#)(b) (2017).

## -M-

**MANDATED REPORTERS** (child abuse and neglect)—“(1) Any physician or surgeon licensed under the provisions of chapter 370, (2) any resident physician or intern in any hospital in this state, whether or not so licensed, (3) any registered nurse, (4) any licensed practical nurse, (5) any medical examiner, (6) any dentist, (7) any dental hygienist, (8) any psychologist, (9) any school employee, as defined in section 53a-65, (10) any social worker, (11) any person who holds or is issued a coaching permit by the State Board of Education, is a coach of intramural or interscholastic athletics and is eighteen years of age or older, (12) any individual who is employed as a coach or director of youth athletics and is eighteen years of age or older, (13) any individual who is employed as a coach or director of a private youth sports organization, league or team and is eighteen years of age or older, (14) any paid administrator, faculty, staff, athletic director, athletic coach or athletic trainer employed by a public or private institution of higher education who is eighteen years of age or older, excluding student employees, (15) any police officer, (16) any juvenile or adult probation officer, (17) any juvenile or adult parole officer, (18) any member of the clergy, (19) any pharmacist, (20) any physical therapist, (21) any optometrist, (22) any chiropractor, (23) any podiatrist, (24) any mental health professional, (25) any physician assistant, (26) any person who is a licensed or certified emergency medical services provider, (27) any person who is a licensed or certified alcohol and drug counselor, (28) any person who is a licensed marital and family therapist, (29) any person who is a sexual assault counselor or a domestic violence counselor, as defined in section 52-146k, (30) any

person who is a licensed professional counselor, (31) any person who is a licensed foster parent, (32) any person paid to care for a child in any public or private facility, child care center, group child care home or family child care home licensed by the state, (33) any employee of the Department of Children and Families, (34) any employee of the Department of Public Health, (35) any employee of the Office of Early Childhood who is responsible for the licensing of child care centers, group child care homes, family child care homes or youth camps, (36) any paid youth camp director or assistant director, (37) the Child Advocate and any employee of the Office of the Child Advocate, and (38) any family relations counselor, family relations counselor trainee or family services supervisor employed by the Judicial Department.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [17a-101](#)(b) (2017).

**MARRIAGE**—“means the legal union of two persons.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-20](#)(4) (2017).

**MARRIAGE, DISSOLVED**—“A marriage is dissolved only by (1) the death of one of the parties or (2) a decree of annulment or dissolution of the marriage by a court of competent jurisdiction.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-40](#)(a) (2017).

**MENTALLY DEFICIENT**—“A child may be found ‘mentally deficient’ who, by reason of a deficiency of intelligence that has existed from birth or from early age, requires, or will require, for such child’s protection or for the protection of others, special care, supervision and control.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-120](#)(3) (2017).

**MODIFICATION OF SUPPORT ORDER**—“Unless and to the extent that the decree precludes modification, any final order for the periodic payment of permanent alimony or support, an order for alimony or support pendente lite or an order requiring either party to maintain life insurance for the other party or a minor child of the parties may, at any time thereafter, be continued, set aside, altered or modified by the court upon a showing of a substantial change in the circumstances of either party or upon a showing that the final order for child support substantially deviates from the child support guidelines established pursuant to section 46b-215a, unless there was a specific finding on the record that the application of the guidelines would be inequitable or inappropriate.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-86](#) (2017).

## -N-

**NEGLECTED**—“A child or youth may be found ‘neglected’ who, for reasons other than being impoverished, (A) has been abandoned, (B) is being denied proper care and attention, physically, educationally, emotionally or morally, or (C) is being permitted to live under conditions, circumstances or associations injurious to the well-being of the child or youth.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-120](#)(6) (2017).

**NON-ASSISTANCE CASE**—“means one in which the recipient of IV-D services applied for such services, is a Medicaid recipient, or is receiving continuation of services following discontinuance of an assistance or Medicaid case.” Conn. Regs. § [17b-179\(a\)-1](#)(14).

**NONCUSTODIAL PARENT**—“means a parent who does not provide the child’s primary residence.” Conn. Regs. § [46b-215a-1](#)(18).

**NOTICE OF ORDERS**—“In all dissolution of marriage or civil union, legal separation, annulment, custody or visitation actions, such notice as the judicial authority shall direct shall be given to nonappearing parties of any orders for support or alimony. No such order shall be effective until the order of notice shall have been complied with or the

nonappearing party has actually received notice of such orders.” Conn. Practice Book § [25-29](#) (2017).

## -O-

**OCSE**—“means the [Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement](#) within the [United States Department of Health and Human Services](#), Administration for Children and Families.” Conn. Regs. § [17b-179\(a\)-1](#)(16).

**OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES (OCSS)**—“There is created within the Department of Social Services the Office of Child Support Services. The office shall be administered by a director and shall act as the single and separate organizational unit to coordinate, plan and publish the state child support enforcement plan for the implementation of Title IV-D of the Social Security Act, as amended, as required by federal law and regulations. The office shall provide for the development and implementation of all child support services, including the administration of withholding of earnings, in accordance with the provisions of Title IV-D of the Social Security Act, as amended.” **Conn. Gen. Stat. § [17b-179](#)** (2017).

**OPEN ADOPTION**—“The plaintiff does not seek to ‘open,’ to set aside or to diminish in any way the adoptive process that has substituted the defendants as the legal parents of the child. The plaintiff’s rights are not premised on an ongoing genetic relationship that somehow survives a termination of parental rights and an adoption. Instead, the plaintiff is asking us to decide whether, as an adult who has had an ongoing personal relationship with the child, she may contract with the adopting parents, prior to adoption, for the continued right to visit with the child, so long as that visitation continues to be in the best interest of the child.” [Michaud v. Wawruck](#), 209 Conn. 407, 412-413, 551 A.2d 738, 740 (1988).

## -P-

**PARENT-LIKE RELATIONSHIP**—“Proof of the nature of a parent-like relationship between a person seeking visitation and the child would provide the jurisdictional safeguard necessary to prevent families from having to defend against unjustified petitions for visitation. Accordingly, any third party, including a grandparent or a great-grandparent, seeking visitation must allege and establish a parent-like relationship as a jurisdictional threshold in order both to pass constitutional muster and to be consistent with the legislative intent.” [Roth v. Weston](#), 259 Conn. 202, 222-223, 789 A.2d 431, 443 (2002).

**PERSONAL JURISDICTION**—“a tribunal of this state may exercise personal jurisdiction over a nonresident individual or the individual’s guardian or conservator if (1) the individual is personally served with process within this state; (2) the individual submits to the jurisdiction of this state by consent in a record, by entering a general appearance or by filing a responsive document having the effect of waiving any contest to personal jurisdiction; (3) the individual resided with the child in this state; (4) the individual resided in this state and provided prenatal expenses or support for the child; (5) the child resides in this state as a result of the acts or directives of the individual; (6) the individual engaged in sexual intercourse in this state and the child may have been conceived by that act of intercourse; or (7) there is any other basis consistent with the constitutions of this state and

the United States for the exercise of personal jurisdiction.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-311](#)(a) (2017).

**PRENATAL INJURIES**—Abuse or neglect of an unborn child and the extent to which a parent may be held accountable for prenatal injury.

**PRENUPTIAL AGREEMENT** (or antenuptial agreement or premarital agreement)—“means an agreement between prospective spouses made in contemplation of marriage.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-36b](#)(1) (2017).

**PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE FAMILY**—“means a person or persons, licensed by the Department of Children and Families or approved by a licensed child-placing agency, who is awaiting the placement of, or who has a child or children placed in their home for the purposes of adoption.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [17a-93](#)(14) (2017).

**PROTECTIVE SUPERVISION**—“means a status created by court order following adjudication of neglect whereby a child’s place of abode is not changed but assistance directed at correcting the neglect is provided at the request of the court through the Department of Children and Families or such other social agency as the court may specify.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [17a-93](#)(9) (2017).

## -R-

**RECEIVING HOME**—“means a facility operated by the Department of Children and Families to receive and temporarily care for children in the guardianship or care of the commissioner.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [17a-93](#)(10) (2017).

**RECORDS**—“means information created or obtained in connection with the department’s child protection activities or other activities related to a child while in the care or custody of the department, including information in the registry of reports to be maintained by the commissioner pursuant to section 17a-101k.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [17a-28](#)(5) (2017).

**REGISTRATION OF CHILD CUSTODY DETERMINATION**—“A child custody determination issued by a court of another state may be registered in this state, with or without a simultaneous request for enforcement, by sending to the Superior Court in this state: (1) A letter or other document requesting registration; (2) two copies, including one certified copy, of the determination sought to be registered, and a statement under penalty of perjury that to the best of the knowledge and belief of the petitioner the order has not been modified; and (3) except as otherwise provided in section 46b-115s, the name and address of the petitioner and any parent or person acting as parent who has been awarded custody or visitation in the child custody determination sought to be registered.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-115w](#)(a) (2017).

**REGISTRY OF SUPPORT ORDERS**—“. . . a support order or income-withholding order of another state or a foreign support order may be registered in this state by sending the following records to the Family Support Magistrate Division of the Superior Court in this state: (1) A letter of transmittal to the tribunal requesting registration and enforcement; (2) two copies, including one certified copy, of the order to be registered, including any modification of the order; (3) a sworn statement by the person requesting registration or a certified statement by the custodian of the records showing the amount of any arrearage; (4) the name of the obligor and, if known (A) the obligor’s address and Social Security number; (B) the name and address of the obligor’s employer and any other source of income of the obligor; and (C) a description and the location of property of the obligor in

this state not exempt from execution; and (5) except as otherwise provided in section 46b-338, the name and address of the obligee and, if applicable, the person to whom support payments are to be remitted." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-371](#)(a) (2017).

**REHABILITATIVE ALIMONY**—"or time limited alimony, is alimony that is awarded primarily for the purpose of allowing the spouse who receives it to obtain further education, training, or other skills necessary to attain self-sufficiency." [Bornemann v. Bornemann](#), 245 Conn. 508, 539, 752 A.2d 978, 996 (1998).

**RELATIVE**—"means any person descended from a common ancestor, whether by blood or adoption, not more than three generations removed from the child." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [45a-743](#)(7) (2017).

**REMOVAL OF CHILD (IMMEDIATE)**—"If the Commissioner of Children and Families, or the commissioner's designee, has probable cause to believe that the child or any other child in the household is in imminent risk of physical harm from the child's surroundings and that immediate removal from such surroundings is necessary to ensure the child's safety, the commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, shall authorize any employee of the department or any law enforcement officer to remove the child and any other child similarly situated from such surroundings without the consent of the child's parent or guardian." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [17a-101g](#)(e) (2017).

**REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT**—"Definitions. Confidentiality of and access to records; exceptions. Procedure for aggrieved persons." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [17a-28](#) (2017).

**REPRESSED MEMORY SYNDROME**—Adult memories of child abuse.

**RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT**—"a) A complaint for dissolution of a marriage or for legal separation may be filed at any time after either party has established residence in this state.

(c) A decree dissolving a marriage or granting a legal separation may be entered if: (1) One of the parties to the marriage has been a resident of this state for at least the twelve months next preceding the date of the filing of the complaint or next preceding the date of the decree; or (2) one of the parties was domiciled in this state at the time of the marriage and returned to this state with the intention of permanently remaining before the filing of the complaint; or (3) the cause for the dissolution of the marriage arose after either party moved into this state." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-44](#) (2017).

**RIGHT TO ALIMONY**—"Our alimony statutes does not recognize any absolute right to alimony." [Thomas v. Thomas](#), 159 Conn. 477, 486, 271 A.2d 62, 66 (1970).

## -S-

**SES**—[Support Enforcement Services](#).

**SEPARATION DEFENSE**—"No action may be maintained against either spouse under the provisions of this section, either during or after any period of separation from the other spouse, for any liability incurred by the other spouse during the separation, if, during the separation the spouse who is liable for support of the other spouse has provided the other spouse with reasonable support." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-37](#)(d) (2017).

**SERIOUS JUVENILE OFFENSE**—"means (A) the violation of, including attempt or conspiracy to violate, section 21a-277, 21a-278, 29-33, 29-34, 29-35, subdivision (2) or (3) of subsection (a) of section 53-21, 53-80a, 53-202b, 53-202c, 53-390 to 53-392, inclusive,

53a-54a to 53a-57, inclusive, 53a-59 to 53a-60c, inclusive, 53a-64aa, 53a-64bb, 53a-70 to 53a-71, inclusive, 53a-72b, 53a-86, 53a-92 to 53a-94a, inclusive, 53a-95, 53a-100aa, 53a-101, 53a-102a, 53a-103a or 53a-111 to 53a-113, inclusive, subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 53a-122, subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 53a-123, section 53a-134, 53a-135, 53a-136a or 53a-167c, subsection (a) of section 53a-174, or section 53a-196a, 53a-211, 53a-212, 53a-216 or 53a-217b, or (B) running away, without just cause, from any secure placement other than home while referred as a delinquent child to the Court Support Services Division or committed as a delinquent child to the Commissioner of Children and Families for a serious juvenile offense." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-120](#)(10) (2017).

**SERIOUS JUVENILE OFFENDER**—"means any child convicted as delinquent for the commission of a serious juvenile offense." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-120](#)(11) (2017).

**SERIOUS JUVENILE REPEAT OFFENDER**—"means any child charged with the commission of any felony if such child has previously been convicted as delinquent or otherwise convicted at any age for two violations of any provision of title 21a, 29, 53 or 53a that is designated as a felony." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-120](#)(12) (2017).

**SHARED PHYSICAL CUSTODY**—"means a situation in which each parent exercises physical care and control of the child for periods substantially in excess of a normal visitation schedule. An equal sharing of physical care and control of the child is not required for a finding of shared physical custody." Conn. Regs. § [46b-215a-1](#)(22).

**SPECIAL NEEDS CHILD** (adoption)—". . . is a child who is a ward of the Commissioner of Children and Families or is to be placed by a licensed child-placing agency and is difficult to place in adoption because of one or more conditions including, but not limited to, physical or mental disability, serious emotional maladjustment, a recognized high risk of physical or mental disability, age or racial or ethnic factors which present a barrier to adoption or is a member of a sibling group which should be placed together, or because the child has established significant emotional ties with prospective adoptive parents while in their care as a foster child and has been certified as a special needs child by the Commissioner of Children and Families." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [17a-116](#) (2017).

**SPLIT CUSTODY**—"means a situation in which there is more than one child in common and each parent is the custodial parent of at least one of the children." Conn. Regs. § [46b-215a-1](#)(23).

**STANDARD OF HARM**—"the harm alleged in a third party custody petition arises from the fundamental nature of the parent-child relationship, which may be emotionally, psychologically or physically damaging to the child. Consequently, in light of the fact that a third party custody petition directly challenges the overall competence of the parent to care for the child, the standard employed to protect the liberty interest of the parent must be more flexible and responsive to the child's welfare than the standard applied in visitation cases, in which the underlying parent-child relationship is not contested." [Fish v. Fish](#), 285 Conn. 24, 47, 939 A.2d 1040, 1054-1055 (2008).

**STATUTORY PARENT** (adoption)—"means the Commissioner of Children and Families or that child-placing agency appointed by the court for the purpose of giving a minor child or minor children in adoption." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [17a-93](#)(6) (2017). *See Also:* §§ [45a-707](#)(7), [45a-717](#), [45a-718](#).

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE**—Drug-exposed mothers and fetal abuse.

**SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN CIRCUMSTANCES**—"When presented with a motion for modification, a court must first determine whether there has been a substantial change in



the financial circumstances of one or both of the parties . . . Second, if the court finds a substantial change in circumstances, it may properly consider the motion and, on the basis of the § 46b-82 criteria, make an order for modification . . . The court has the authority to issue a modification only if it conforms the order to the distinct and definite changes in the circumstances of the parties.” [Crowley v. Crowley](#), 46 Conn. App. 87, 92, 699 A.2d 1029, 1033 (1997).

**SUPPORT ORDER**—“means a judgment, decree, order, decision or directive, whether temporary, final or subject to modification, issued in a state or foreign country for the benefit of a child, a spouse or a former spouse, which provides for monetary support, health care, arrearages, retroactive support or reimbursement for financial assistance provided to an individual obligee in place of child support. The term may include related costs and fees, interest, income withholding, automatic adjustment, reasonable attorney’s fees and other relief.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-302](#)(28) (2017).

## -T-

**TEMPORARY ALIMONY**—see ALIMONY PENDENTE LITE.

**TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS**—“means the complete severance by court order of the legal relationship, with all its rights and responsibilities, between the child and the child’s parent or parents so that the child is free for adoption except it shall not affect the right of inheritance of such child or the religious affiliation of such child.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [17a-93](#)(5) (2017).

**THIRD PARTY**—“refers to any private individual other than a parent of the child, as distinguished from the state.” [Fish v. Fish](#), 285 Conn. 24, 134, 939 A.2d 1040, 1104 (2008).

**THIRD PARTY CUSTODY ACTIONS**—“Three statutes govern third party custody determinations. General Statutes § [46b-56 \(a\)](#) provides that, in making or modifying an order of custody, the court may award custody to ‘either parent or to a third party....’ Additionally, General Statutes § [46b-57](#) provides that the trial court ‘may allow any interested third party or parties to intervene upon motion’ in any existing custody proceeding and ‘may award full or partial custody ... of such child to any such third party....’ Finally, General Statutes § [46b-56b](#) provides that, in disputes regarding ‘the custody of a minor child involving a parent and a nonparent,’ there shall be a rebuttable presumption that it is in the best interest of the child for the parent to retain custody unless such custody is shown to be ‘detrimental’ to the child.” [Fish v. Fish](#), 285 Conn. 24, 42, 939 A.2d 1040, 1052 (2008).

## -U-

**UNCARED FOR**—“A child or youth may be found ‘uncared for’ (A) who is homeless, (B) whose home cannot provide the specialized care that the physical, emotional or mental condition of the child or youth requires, or (C) who has been identified as a victim of trafficking, as defined in section 46a-170. For the purposes of this section, the treatment of any child or youth by an accredited Christian Science practitioner, in lieu of treatment by a licensed practitioner of the healing arts, shall not of itself constitute neglect or maltreatment.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-120](#)(8) (2017).

**UNIFORM INTERSTATE FAMILY SUPPORT ACT (UIFSA)**—Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ [46b-301](#) - [46b-425](#) (2017).

## **-W-**

**WILFUL DESERTION FOR ONE YEAR**—“In an action for dissolution of a marriage or a legal separation on the ground of wilful desertion for one year, with total neglect of duty, the furnishing of financial support shall not disprove total neglect of duty, in the absence of other evidence.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-40](#)(e) (2017).

**WRONGFUL ADOPTION**—“. . . fraudulent concealment by intermediaries (adoption agencies or lawyers and doctors who effect private adoptions) of material facts about a child or her biological family—usually a hereditary physical or mental condition—which, if disclosed to the prospective adoptive parents, would have resulted in the adoption not taking place.” [Juman v. Louise Wise Services](#), 608 N.Y.S.2d 612, 614-615 (1994).

## **-Y-**

**YOUTH**—“means any person sixteen or seventeen years of age who has not been legally emancipated.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-120](#)(2) (2017).

*In contrast to CHILD*—“means any person under eighteen years of age who has not been legally emancipated, except that (A) for purposes of delinquency matters and proceedings, ‘child’ means any person who (i) is at least seven years of age at the time of the alleged commission of a delinquent act and who is (I) under eighteen years of age and has not been legally emancipated, or (II) eighteen years of age or older and committed a delinquent act prior to attaining eighteen years of age, or (ii) is subsequent to attaining eighteen years of age, (I) violates any order of the Superior Court or any condition of probation ordered by the Superior Court with respect to a delinquency proceeding, or (II) wilfully fails to appear in response to a summons under section 46b-133 or at any other court hearing in a delinquency proceeding of which the child had notice, and (B) for purposes of family with service needs matters and proceedings, child means a person who is at least seven years of age and is under eighteen years of age.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-120](#)(1) (2017).

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