



# North Dakota Legislative Council

Prepared for the Protection and Victim Services Committee  
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## LAWS ON CRIMINAL CONDUCT AGAINST CHILDREN STUDY - BACKGROUND MEMORANDUM

Section 1 of House Bill No. 1410 (2025) ([appendix](#)) provides for a study of state laws relating to criminal conduct against children, including child sexual abuse, child physical abuse, child neglect, and human trafficking of children. This study must include a review of:

- The use of the term "child sexually abusive material" or other language deemed appropriate instead of the term "sexual performance" to describe child pornography or sexual conduct of a minor in North Dakota Century Code Chapter 12.1-27.2;
- State laws relating to the use of artificial intelligence for crimes relating to sexual performance of a minor or possession of certain prohibited materials; and
- Other laws intended to protect children and facilitate the investigation and prosecution of crime involving child victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect, and trafficking.

### BACKGROUND

Child abuse and neglect include any action or inaction by a parent, caregiver, or another individual in a custodial role causing harm, a threat of harm, or the potential for harm to a child under age 18. The four common forms of abuse and neglect are physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect. Physical abuse is the intentional use of physical force that can result in bodily injury. Emotional abuse consists of behaviors that harm a child's self-worth or emotional well-being. Sexual abuse is any attempted or completed sexual act or sexual contact with a child by a custodial individual. Neglect is the failure to provide for a child's basic physical and emotional needs. Child abuse and neglect are common and can be exacerbated by poverty. At least one in seven children in the United States experienced abuse or neglect in the last year.<sup>1</sup> In 2024, there were 5,511 suspected victims of child abuse and neglect in North Dakota.<sup>2</sup>

In North Dakota Century Code, child abuse encompasses physical abuse, which includes mental injury, under Sections 14-09-22 and 50-25.1-02(2), and sexual abuse, under Sections 12.1-20-01 through 12.1-20-07, 12.1-20-11 through 12.1-20-12.3, and Chapter 12.1-27.2. The penalties for child abuse depend upon who commits the offense, the severity of the injury, and the child's age. Child neglect is addressed in Sections 14-09-22.1 and 50-25.1-02(20). North Dakota adopted the Uniform Act on Prevention of and Remedies for Human Trafficking, codified as Chapter 12.1-41, which provides for trafficking offenses involving children.

### NORTH DAKOTA LAW Child Physical and Emotional Abuse

Section 50-25.1-02 defines "abused child" as an individual under age 18 suffering from abuse, as defined under Section 14-09-22, caused by a person responsible for their welfare. Under Section 14-09-22, a parent, guardian, custodian, or adult family or household member who inflicts, or allows to be inflicted, mental injury, bodily injury, substantial bodily injury, or serious bodily injury upon the child is

<sup>1</sup> *About Child Abuse and Neglect*. United States Centers for Disease Control Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention.

<sup>2</sup> *North Dakota: Child Abuse and Neglect*, Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center. Data represents the number of children involved in assessments made to the Department of Health and Human Services where there is the suspicion of child abuse or neglect.

guilty of a Class C felony. Abuse of a child under age 6 is a Class B felony. Section 14-09-22(1) defines "mental injury" as an observable and substantial nontransitory impairment inhibiting the child's mental or psychological ability to function within the normal range of performance or behavior. Section 14-09-22(2) provides a person caring for, supervising, or educating a child in exchange for any item of value who inflicts, or allows to be inflicted, mental or bodily injury upon the child is guilty of a Class B felony. If a child victim suffers significant and ongoing physical or functional loss of a body part, organ, or body system resulting from an offense under Section 14-09-22, the offense is a Class B felony if the child is age 6 or over. If the child victim is under age 6 and suffers permanent loss or impairment, the offense is a Class A felony. Child abuse offenses under Section 14-09-22 carry a minimum mandatory sentence of 1 year, and the court issued sentence also must include a requirement for a parental capacity evaluation, mental health evaluation, and anger management assessment, and to complete all treatment recommendations ordered by the court.

### **Child Sexual Abuse**

#### **Sex Offenses with Child Victims**

The criminality of an offense under Section 12.1-20-01 is dependent upon the age of the victim and the actor. Section 12.1-20-01 addresses possible defenses to an offense under Sections 12.1-20-03 through 12.1-20-08. When the criminality of an offense requires a child to be under age 15, it is not a defense that the actor did not know the child's age or believed the child to be older. However, it is an affirmative defense if the actor reasonably believed the victim to be an adult when the criminality of the offense requires the victim to be a minor, namely age 15 or older. When criminality depends on the minor victim being age 15 or older, the actor is guilty only if the actor is at least 3 years older than the minor victim. When the actor is a minor and criminality depends on the victim being under age 15, a minor actor is guilty only if the actor is at least 3 years older than the minor victim.

Section 12.1-20-02 distinguishes a "sexual act," defined as human sexual contact between any sexual organ and another individual's body or object occurring upon any penetration, from "sexual contact," defined as any touching of the sexual or intimate parts of the person or the penile ejaculation or emission of urine or feces on another for the purpose of sexual or aggressive desires.

Section 12.1-20-03 addresses the crime of gross sexual imposition. A person who engages in a sexual act or sexual contact is guilty of a Class A felony offense if the victim is under age 15. It is a Class AA felony if the person is age 22 or older and engages in a sexual act with a victim under age 15. Any use of force, threats, or bodily injury on a minor victim also may increase the offense and subsequent penalties.

Section 12.1-20-03.1 addresses the crime of continuous sexual abuse of a child. A person who engages in three or more sexual acts or sexual contacts over 3 or more months with a minor under age 15 is guilty of a Class A felony. If a person is age 22 or older and engages in three or more sexual acts or sexual contacts over 3 or more months with a minor under age 15, the person is guilty of a Class AA felony. When a person is charged with continuous sexual abuse of a child, they may not be charged with any other felony offense under Chapter 12.1-20 involving the same victim unless the offense occurred outside of the alleged time period of abuse. A person only may be charged with one count under Section 12.1-20-03.1 for one victim. However, a person may be charged with multiple counts under Section 12.1-20-03.1, one count per victim, if more than one victim is involved.

Section 12.1-20-05 addresses the crime of corruption or solicitation of a minor. An adult who engages in, solicits with intent to engage in, or causes another to engage in a sexual act with a minor age 15 or over is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. If the offense is committed within 50 feet of a school the crime is elevated to a Class C felony. If the minor corrupted or solicited is under age 15 and the adult is age 22 or over, the crime is a Class C felony. If the minor is under age 15, the person is age 22 or over, and the corruption or solicitation is committed within 50 feet of a school, the crime is elevated to a Class B felony.

Section 12.1-20-05.1 addresses the crime of luring minors by electronic means. Luring occurs when an adult, through electronic communication, believing the person the adult is communicating with is a minor:

- Implicitly or explicitly discusses or depicts nudity, sexual acts, sexual content, sadomasochistic abuse, or any sexual performance; and
- Invites or induces the person believed to be a minor to engage in a sexual performance or sexual conduct for the adult's benefit.

The level of a violation under Section 12.1-20-05.1 is dependent upon the age of the adult and the purported age of the minor. An adult convicted of a Class B or Class C felony for luring a minor by electronic means is subject to a mandatory 1-year term of imprisonment if a substantial step was taken to meet the minor.

Section 12.1-20-07 addresses the crime of sexual assault. A person who has sexual contact with a minor is guilty of a Class C felony offense if the person is responsible for the minor's welfare, or if the person is an adult age 22 or older and the minor is age 15 or older. However, if the adult is age 18 through 21 and is not responsible for the welfare of the victim age 15 or older, the sexual assault offense is a Class A misdemeanor.

Section 12.1-20-12.1 addresses the crime of indecent exposure. An individual is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor if, with intent to gratify the individual's sexual desires, the individual masturbates in the presence of a minor or exposes the individual's sexual organs to a minor in public, private, or by electronic means. An indecent exposure involving a minor within 50 feet of a school is a Class C felony.

Section 12.1-20-12.2 addresses the crime of surreptitious intrusion. A surreptitious intrusion offense involving a minor is a Class C felony. An individual commits an offense under Section 12.1-20-12.1 if, with the intent to gratify the individual's sexual desires and intrude upon or interfere with the victim's privacy, the individual:

- Enters upon another's property and surreptitiously gazes, stares, or peeps at the victim;
- Enters upon another's property and surreptitiously installs or uses any device for observing, photographing, recording, amplifying, or broadcasting the victim;
- Surreptitiously gazes, stares, or peeps on the victim in a tanning booth, hotel sleeping room, or other place where an individual has a reasonable expectation of privacy and is likely to expose or remove clothing covering intimate parts; or
- Surreptitiously installs or uses any device for observing, photographing, recording, amplifying, or broadcasting the victim in a tanning booth, hotel sleeping room, or any other place where an individual has a reasonable expectation of privacy and is likely to expose or remove clothing covering intimate parts.

Section 12.1-20-12.3 address the crime of sexual extortion. An individual commits the offense of sexual extortion if the individual knowingly causes a victim, by means of threat, to engage in sexual contact, sexually explicit conduct, or in simulated sexual conduct, or to produce, provide, or distribute an image or recording of an individual engaged in sexually explicit conduct or any intimate image of an individual. A sexual extortion offense committed against a minor is a Class B felony.

The statutory definition of sexual abuse also encompasses a child who is a victim of sexual imposition, sexual abuse of a ward, sexual exploitation by a therapist, incest, or a deviate sexual act under Chapter 12.1-20.

### **Sexual Performances by Children**

Chapter 12.1-27.2 addresses the exploitation of minors through "sexual performances," outlining legal definitions and penalties. A "computer-generated image" is the use of a computer or artificial intelligence

to create an image or visual representation. A "minor" is defined as an individual under age 18 and also includes a computer-generated image made to appear like an individual under age 18. A "sexual performance" is the visual performance of a minor engaging in sexual conduct, which includes actual and simulated acts, and physical contact with clothed or unclothed sexual organs. Section 12.1-27.2-01 also defines "obscene sexual performance" as content appealing to a prurient interest, under contemporary North Dakota standards, that depicts sexual conduct in a patently offensive way, and lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value to the reasonable person. A person is guilty of a Class A felony under Section 12.1-27.2-02 if the person:

- Knowingly enables a minor to engage in a performance with sexual conduct;
- Permits, as a parent or guardian, a minor to engage in a performance with sexual conduct; or
- Purports themselves as a minor and induces a minor to engage in a sexual performance.

A person who knowingly produces, directs, or promotes an obscene sexual performance by a minor is guilty of a Class A felony under Section 12.1-27.2-03. A person who knowingly produces, directs, or promotes a performance containing sexual conduct by a minor is guilty of a Class B felony under Section 12.1-27.2-04.

Section 12.1-27.2-04.1 penalizes the possession of any visual representation of sexual conduct by a minor, known as child pornography. An individual who knowingly possesses child pornography, including a motion picture, computer-generated image, photography, or any visual representation, is guilty of a Class C felony. The possession of child pornography is a Class B felony if:

- The offense involves 20 or more visual representations;
- The offense involves depictions of violence or bestiality;
- The offense involves depictions of a prepubescent minor or minor under age 12; or
- The individual has been previously convicted of a registerable offense under Section 12.1-32-15.

Section 12.1-27.2-04.2 provides enhanced fines for a person violating the chapter for monetary gain or commercial activity, and for an individual or corporation upon a second or subsequent offense under the chapter.

Section 12.1-27.2-05 provides affirmative defenses applicable to the chapter. It is an affirmative defense under the chapter if the defendant reasonably believed the individual was age 18 or over if the individual involved was age 15 or older, or if the material was disseminated for an appropriate purpose, including for medical or judicial purposes.

Under Section 12.1-27.2-06, a minor's age for purposes of the chapter may be determined by viewing the minor physically or by visual representation, testimony by a witness, testimony by an expert witness, or another authorized method.

### **Legislative History of Sexual Performances by Children**

Chapter 12.1-27.1 was created by the 1985 Legislative Assembly through the passage of Senate Bill No. 2390, which prohibited "sexual performances by children," a term still used in Century Code. Originally, "obscene sexual performance" was defined as a performance by a child under age 16 which included sexual conduct in obscene material or an obscene performance, and "sexual performance" was defined as a performance including sexual conduct by a child under age 16. Chapter 12.1-27.1 was amended by the 1989 Legislative Assembly to expand the definition of a sexual performance from applying to children under age 16 to applying to all minors.

In House Bill No. 1513, the 1991 Legislative Assembly provided enhanced fines for offenses in furtherance of monetary gain and for repeat offenders. The 2007 Legislative Assembly passed House Bill No. 1357, which increased the penalty for the possession of child pornography from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class C felony.

The 2011 Legislative Assembly passed Senate Bill No. 2333, which expanded the definition of sexual conduct in Section 12.1-27.2-01 to include exhibition of the buttocks or breasts. In 2013, the affirmative defense stemming from a lack of financial interest in the sexual performance of a minor was removed by Senate Bill No. 2265. Senate Bill No. 2266 (2015) increased the penalty for the use of a minor in a sexual performance under Section 12.1-27.2-02 from a Class B felony to a Class A felony and added a Class A felony offense for an adult, pretending to be a minor, who induces a minor to engage in a sexual performance.

House Bill No. 1183 (2017) expanded the definition of sexual conduct to include depictions of any denuded human figures used for sexual gratification and physical contact with a person's clothed or unclothed genitals.

The 2025 Legislative Assembly passed House Bill No. 1386, adding the definition of a computer-generated image and expanding the definition of a minor as used in the chapter to include a computer-generated visual representation of a minor. The bill expanded the offense of possession of certain materials prohibited to include computer-generated images of minors and enhanced the penalty for possession of certain child pornography and possession by offenders who are subject to previous registration to a Class B felony.

### **North Dakota Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force**

The North Dakota Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force was created in 2017 by Senate Bill No. 2342 to gather information and develop recommendations on child sexual abuse in the state. The task force was originally composed of nine members and set to expire following the 2017-18 interim. In House Bill No. 1237, the 2019 Legislative Assembly expanded the task force to a minimum of 15 members and extended the expiration date to September 30, 2024, to allow for more time to develop and implement a comprehensive statewide approach to preventing child sexual abuse. The 2021 Legislative Assembly appropriated \$563,430 to the task force for staff and program materials in Section 4 of House Bill No. 1012. Senate Bill No. 2257 (2023) extended the task force expiration date to June 30, 2025. A report was prepared by the task force each biennium and a final report was prepared in 2025 upon the task force's conclusion.

### **Child Neglect**

Section 14-09-22.1 addresses the crime of child neglect. Child neglect occurs when a parent, guardian, custodian, or any adult family or household member willfully:

- Fails to provide the proper care or control, subsistence, or education as required by law, or other care or control needed for a child's physical, emotional, mental, or moral development.
- Allows a child to be, or fails to reasonably prevent a child from being, in a disreputable place or from associating with individuals involved in immoral or harmful behavior.
- Allows a child to engage in, or fails to reasonably prevent a child from engaging in, illegal or harmful work.

An individual who commits the crime of child neglect is guilty of a Class C felony.

Section 50-25.1-02(20) defines a "neglected child" as a child who suffers risk or harm due to the action or inaction of an individual responsible for the child's welfare. Neglect includes when a child does not receive the proper care, subsistence, or education as required by law, or other care or control needed for the child's physical, emotional, mental, or moral development, which is not caused primarily due to a caregiver's lack of financial means. Neglect also occurs when a child is living in conditions lacking proper care or control which jeopardizes the child's well-being due to the physical, mental, or emotional state of the individual responsible for the child's care. If a child is considered in need of treatment and the caregiver refuses to cooperate with juvenile court, the child is considered neglected. Prenatal exposure to alcohol or a controlled substance or exposing a child to an environment with controlled substances or drug paraphernalia also are grounds for child neglect. Neglect also includes cases in which a child has been illegally placed for care or adoption, has been abandoned, or is a victim of human trafficking.

## **Child Human Trafficking**

### **Uniform Act on Prevention of and Remedies for Human Trafficking**

The Uniform Act on Prevention of and Remedies for Human Trafficking, as developed by the Uniform Law Commission in 2013, was codified as Chapter 12.1-41 by the 2015 Legislative Assembly. As defined under the Act, human trafficking includes the trafficking of an individual, forced labor, sexual servitude, patronizing a victim of sexual servitude, or patronizing a minor for commercial sexual activity. Business entities may be held liable under Section 12.1-41-07 for knowingly participating in or ignoring trafficking conducted by their employees. Chapter 12.1-41 defines human trafficking broadly, covering both labor and sex trafficking. Trafficking of a minor under Section 12.1-41-02, forced labor of a minor under Section 12.1-41-03, and sexual servitude of a minor under Section 12.1-41-04 are all Class AA felonies. Unlike an adult victim, minor victims of human trafficking do not require a showing of coercion, compulsion, or deception. It is a Class A felony to patronize a minor victim of sexual servitude or a minor for commercial sexual activity. It is a Class B felony for a person to offer or give a minor anything of value in exchange for commercial sexual activity with the minor.

Section 12.1-41-12 provides broad immunity for a minor who commits a criminal offense as a direct result of being a victim. A victim may petition the court to vacate and seal convictions for offenses stemming from trafficking under Section 12.1-41-14. Minor victims also have the right to file a civil lawsuit against a trafficker for damages, including punitive damages, within 10 years of the trafficking or date on which the victim turned age 18. Section 12.1-41-17 affirms all victims are eligible for state benefits.

## **PREVIOUS LEGISLATION**

### **2015 Legislation**

House Bill No. 1029 separated the offenses of abuse of a child and neglect of a child into different statutory provisions within Chapter 14-09.

Senate Bill No. 2266 increased the penalty for the use of a minor in a sexual performance from a Class B felony to a Class A felony. The bill added an additional Class A felony under Section 12.1-27.2-02 if, with the intent to persuade, induce, entice, or coerce a minor to engage in a sexual performance, an adult portrays himself or herself as a minor. The bill increased the penalty for promoting or directing an obscene sexual performance by a minor under Section 12.1-27.2-03 from a Class B felony to a Class A felony and the penalty for promoting a sexual performance by a minor under Section 12.1-27.2-04 from a Class C felony to a Class B felony. The bill also added a requirement that when asserting the affirmative defense that the person believed in good faith that the minor appearing in a sexual performance was actually an adult, the defense is valid only if the minor was in fact age 15 or older.

Senate Bill No. 2331 increased the statute of limitations from 7 to 10 years on civil claims for relief resulting from childhood sexual abuse under Section 28-01-25.1 and clarified the plaintiff is not required to establish which specific act in a continuous series of sexual abuse acts by the defendant caused the injury. The bill provided an additional 3 years to commence prosecution if DNA evidence obtained at the time of offense conclusively identifies the suspect after the 10 years has expired.

### **2017 Legislation**

House Bill No. 1183 created a Class A misdemeanor offense for a person exposing one's penis, vulva, or anus by unsolicited electronic means or by any electronic means to a minor. The bill enhanced a surreptitious intrusion offense involving a minor under Section 12.1-20-12.2 from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class C felony. The bill also expanded the definition of "sexual conduct" related to offenses involving performances by minors under Chapter 12.1-27.2 to include "actual or simulated nude or partially denuded human figure" and "physical contact with a person's clothed or unclothed genitals, pubic area, buttocks, or breasts."

House Bill No. 1236 provided that the identification of a suspect based on fingerprint evidence may be used to extend the statute of limitations by 3 years on a claim for civil relief for childhood sexual abuse.

### **2019 Legislation**

House Bill No. 1108 changed the assessment process by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for reports of child abuse and neglect. The bill created two new evidence-based screening assessments under Chapter 50-25.1, a child protection assessment and a family services assessment. A child protection assessment is a fact-finding process used to gather information to determine whether protective services are needed for a child who may have been abused or neglected. A family services assessment is used when a report of suspected abuse or neglect suggests the child is at low risk, and no immediate safety concerns are identified to offer support without a formal child protection investigation. The bill provided that a family services assessment may be escalated to a child protection assessment if the department determines a lack of compliance.

House Bill No. 1425 extended the statute of limitations for the prosecution of a violation of Sections 12.1-20-03 through 12.1-20-08, or Section 12.1-20-11, relating to sexual abuse of a minor from 10 to 21 years after the commission of the offense. The bill also required a prosecuting attorney or law enforcement agency to provide a copy of a child sexual abuse victim's law enforcement report upon request of the victim if the victim is over age 18, and prohibits a criminal laboratory and evidentiary storage facility from destroying or disposing of any evidence of a criminal offense before the limitation period for prosecution for the offense has ended or the offense has been adjudicated.

Senate Bill No. 2273 created a Class A misdemeanor for the offense of sexual extortion and added sexual extortion to the list of offenses a minor might be subjected to as a "sexually abused child." The bill enhanced the penalty for a sexual extortion violation from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class B felony if the victim is a minor and the offender knowingly causes the victim to engage in sexual contact, in sexually explicit conduct, or in simulated sexually explicit conduct, or to produce, provide, or distribute any image, video, or other recording of any individual engaged in sexually explicit conduct or any intimate image of an individual, or a demand for money, by means of a threat to the victim's or another's person, property, or reputation or a threat to distribute or an enticement to delete an intimate image or video of the victim or another.

### **2021 Legislation**

Senate Bill No. 2083 substantially amended Chapter 50-25.1 by defining the roles and separating membership of the child fatality review panel and the state child protection team, revising the decisionmaking matrix for child protection services, addressing the provision of services following a child protection assessment, and revising the definition of institutional abuse and institutional abuse protocol. The bill permitted a finding of "confirmed," "confirmed with unknown subject," "impending danger," "indicated," "unable to determine," or "unconfirmed" for child protective services following a report of abuse or neglect. The bill provided that a "neglected child" includes a child who has been exposed to any amount of marijuana and narrowed the reference to controlled substances to Section 19.03.1-01. The bill also permitted an entity with more than 25 mandated reporters to designate an individual to receive and forward reports of suspected child abuse and neglect.

### **2023 Legislation**

House Bill No. 1362 provided a parent has a right to exercise primary control over the care, supervision, upbringing, and education of the parent's child, while also providing that child has a right to be protected from abuse and neglect, and that the state retains a compelling interest in protecting the child from abuse and neglect.

House Bill No. 1492 defined a "mental injury" related to the crime of abuse of a child under Section 14-09-22 as an observable and substantial, nontransitory impairment to a child's mental or psychological ability to function within a normal range of performance or behavior.

Senate Bill No. 2083 removed from the duties of regional human service centers the requirement to provide services to prevent or remedy child abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and the requirement to aid in the preservation, rehabilitation, and reunification of families to reflect the shift in duties to other DHHS divisions.

Senate Bill No. 2103 included alcohol in toxicology testing requirements for prenatal exposure and replaced references to "alcohol abuse" with "alcohol misuse" to provide consistency with the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*. The bill expanded the defined age for substance exposure from "newborn" to "infant" allowing for the identification and provision of services for up to 12 months as required under federal law. The bill also created the child abuse information index as a categorized registry and provided the circumstances under which information may be entered and how long that information remains on the index.

### **2025 Legislation**

House Bill No. 1338 requires DHHS to determine the military status of any individual subject to an assessment at the initiation of a child abuse or neglect assessment. If DHHS determines an allegation involves a military-affiliated individual, DHHS must notify the nearest military installation's family advocacy program of the investigation.

House Bill No. 1361 creates mandatory minimum sentences under Chapter 12.1-41 for a person committing trafficking of an individual, forced labor, sexual servitude, patronizing a victim of sexual servitude, or patronizing a minor for commercial sexual activity. Sentences must be served without parole, with a Class AA felony carrying a minimum sentence of 20 years, a Class A felony carrying a minimum sentence of 10 years, and a Class B felony carrying a minimum sentence of 5 years.

House Bill No. 1562 requires a teacher, administrator, librarian, and counselor to submit documentation prior to initial licensure verifying completion of a mandated reporter training program for suspected child abuse and neglect. The bill requires DHHS to develop an online interactive training module to satisfy the mandatory reporter training requirement and provides that a college, school, or regional education association may offer mandated reporter training for subsequent education at the district level. The bill also adds child abuse and neglect to the types of professional development that may be provided to elementary, middle, and high school teachers and administrators every 2 years for license renewal.

Senate Bill No. 2330 requires school boards to adopt a policy on human trafficking and exploitation prevention and awareness education for students and faculty. Schoolwide human trafficking education is required for all students in grades 6, 10, and 12. Parents and legal guardians must be offered optional workshops of materials to support the education of their child on personal safety and grooming prevention. The required education may be provided by a nonprofit organization and must be developmentally appropriate, culturally sensitive, provided annually, and utilize best practices.

### **SUGGESTED STUDY APPROACH**

In conducting the study of state laws relating to criminal conduct against children, child sexual abuse, child physical abuse, child neglect, and human trafficking of children, the committee may wish to hear testimony from:

- Members of the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force;
- Representatives from Families Flourish ND;
- Representatives from child advocacy centers;
- Law enforcement;
- Representatives from the North Dakota State's Attorneys' Association; and
- Representatives from DHHS.

ATTACH:1