CHAPTER 97
HB 306 - FINAL VERSION

3Jan2024... 2306h

2024 SESSION

23-0470
06/04

HOUSE BILL *306*

AN ACT relative to prohibiting reunification therapy.

SPONSORS: Rep. Nutter-Upham, Hills. 8; Rep. O. Ford, Rock. 3; Rep. Merchant, Sull. 6; Rep. Bernardy, Rock. 36; Rep. Stapleton, Sull. 6; Rep. Vose, Rock. 5; Rep. McMahon, Rock. 17; Rep. Cushman, Hills. 28

COMMITTEE: Children and Family Law

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill prohibits certain types of family reunification treatment as part of a parenting plan and requires any recommended counselor be recommended by the parties and a participating provider in the parties' health insurance network.

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Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics.***
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Four

AN ACT relative to prohibiting reunification therapy.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

97:1 Parental Rights and Responsibilities; Parenting Plans; Contents; Reunification Therapy Prohibited. Amend RSA 461-A:4, III to read as follows:

III. If the parties are insured and the parenting plan directs the parties to participate in counseling, the court shall give due consideration to selecting a counselor who [~~accepts direct payment from the~~] ***is recommended by the parties and is a participating provider in the*** parties' health insurance carrier. ***The court shall not order family reunification treatments, programs, or services, including, but not limited to, camps, workshops, therapeutic vacations, or educational programs that, as a condition of enrollment or participation, require or result in any of the following:***

(a) A no-contact order.

(b) An overnight, out-of-state, or multi-day stay.

(c) A transfer of physical or legal custody of the child.

(d) The use of private youth transporters or private transportation agents engaged in the use of force, threat of force, physical obstruction, acutely distressing circumstances, or circumstances that place the safety of the child at risk.

(e) The use of threats of physical force, undue coercion, verbal abuse, isolation from the child's family, community, or other sources of support, or other acutely distressing circumstances.

97:2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

Approved: July 03, 2024
Effective Date: July 01, 2024