

Act No. 9
Public Acts of 2002
Approved by the Governor
February 14, 2002
Filed with the Secretary of State
February 14, 2002
EFFECTIVE DATE: February 14, 2002

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
91ST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2002**

Introduced by Senator Hammerstrom

ENROLLED SENATE BILL No. 684

AN ACT to amend 1970 PA 91, entitled "An act to declare the inherent rights of minor children; to establish rights and duties to their custody, support, and parenting time in disputed actions; to establish rights and duties to provide support for a child after the child reaches the age of majority under certain circumstances; to provide for certain procedure and appeals; and to repeal certain acts and parts of acts," by amending section 2 (MCL 722.22), as amended by 1999 PA 156.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Sec. 2. As used in this act:

(a) "Agency" means a legally authorized public or private organization, or governmental unit or official, whether of this state or of another state or country, concerned in the welfare of minor children, including a licensed child placement agency.

(b) "Attorney" means, if appointed to represent a child under this act, an attorney serving as the child's legal advocate in a traditional attorney-client relationship with the child, as governed by the Michigan rules of professional conduct. An attorney defined under this subdivision owes the same duties of undivided loyalty, confidentiality, and zealous representation of the child's expressed wishes as the attorney would to an adult client.

(c) "Child" means minor child and children. Subject to section 5b of the support and parenting time enforcement act, 1982 PA 295, MCL 552.605b, for purposes of providing support, child includes a child and children who have reached 18 years of age.

(d) "Guardian ad litem" means an individual whom the court appoints to assist the court in determining the child's best interests. A guardian ad litem does not need to be an attorney.

(e) "Lawyer-guardian ad litem" means an attorney appointed under section 4. A lawyer-guardian ad litem represents the child, and has the powers and duties, as set forth in section 4.

(f) "State disbursement unit" or "SDU" means the entity established in section 6 of the office of child support act, 1971 PA 174, MCL 400.236.

(g) "Third person" means an individual other than a parent.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

Carol Morey Viventi

Secretary of the Senate.

Jay E. Randall

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Approved

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Governor.