



BILL NO. 201

Government Bill

*1st Session, 65th General Assembly
Nova Scotia
4 Charles III, 2026*

An Act Respecting Justice and Social Services

CHAPTER 4
ACTS OF 2026

**AS ASSENTED TO BY THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
APRIL 9, 2026**

The Honourable Barbara Adams
Minister of Opportunities and Social Development

*Halifax, Nova Scotia
Printed by Authority of the Speaker of the House of Assembly*

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An Act Respecting Justice and Social Services

Be it enacted by the Governor and Assembly as follows:

1 This Act may be cited as the *Justice and Social Services Act*.

PART I

BENEFICIARIES DESIGNATION ACT

2 Chapter 36 of the Revised Statutes, 1989, the *Beneficiaries Designation Act*, is amended by adding immediately after Section 3 the following Section:

3A (1) Where, in accordance with the terms of a plan, a participant designates a person or persons to receive a benefit payable under the plan in the event of the plan holder's death, a requirement for a signature is satisfied by an electronic signature.

(2) An electronic signature made under subsection (1) must meet the requirements for an electronic signature under the *Electronic Commerce Act*.

(3) This Section applies to a designation made before or after the coming into force of this Section.

3 (1) Subsection 9(1) of Chapter 36, as amended by Chapter 6 of the Acts of 2025, is further amended by striking out "and Section 9A".

(2) Subsection 9(3) of Chapter 36 is amended by adding "3A," immediately after "Sections".

4 Section 9A of Chapter 36 is repealed.

PART II

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES ACT

5 Chapter 5 of the Acts of 1990, the *Children and Family Services Act*, is amended by adding immediately after Section 14 the following Section:

14A The Minister may provide services, as prescribed by the regulations, to a person who is nineteen years of age or more and less than twenty-six years of age who, before reaching nineteen years of age, was a child in care or was a party to a written agreement pursuant to Section 19 or 19A.

6 Clause 45A(b) of Chapter 5, as enacted by Chapter 37 of the Acts of 2015, is amended by striking out "less" and substituting "more".

7 Subsection 63(2) of Chapter 5, as amended by Chapter 37 of the Acts of 2015, is further amended by

(a) striking out “or” at the end of clause (b); and

(b) adding immediately after clause (b) the following clause:

(ba) the person receives an absolute or conditional discharge in respect of an offence against or involving a child pursuant to the *Criminal Code* (Canada) as prescribed in the regulations; or

8 (1) Subsection 94(1) of Chapter 5 is amended by adding “, including through the use of social media,” immediately after “public”.

(2) Section 94 of Chapter 5 is further amended by adding immediately after subsection (4) the following subsections:

(5) For greater certainty, the prohibitions in subsections (1) and (3) continue

(a) after the death of the child; and

(b) after the hearing or proceeding ends.

(6) Notwithstanding subsections (1) to (5),

(a) the Minister may publish or consent to the publication of

(i) information that has the effect of identifying a child who is a witness at or a participant in a hearing or the subject of a proceeding pursuant to this Act, or a parent or guardian, a foster parent or a relative of the child, or

(ii) a report of such hearing or proceeding, or part thereof, if, in the opinion of the Minister, the publication is in the child’s best interest or is necessary for the proper administration of justice; and

(b) a child who is sixteen years of age or more may publish or consent to the publication of information that has the effect of revealing that the child is a witness at or a participant in a hearing or the subject of a proceeding pursuant to this Act.

9 Subsection 99(1) of Chapter 5, as amended by Chapter 7 of the Acts of 1994-95, Chapter 3 of the Acts of 1996, Chapter 3 of the Acts of 2001, Chapter 5 of the Acts of 2002 and Chapter 37 of the Acts of 2015, is further amended by adding immediately after clause (d) the following clause:

(da) prescribing the services that the Minister may provide to persons nineteen years of age or more and less than twenty-six years of age;

PART III

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION ACT

10 Subsection 8(2) of Chapter 29 of the Acts of 2001, the *Domestic Violence Intervention Act*, as amended by Chapter 6 of the Acts of 2015, is further amended by striking out “thirty days” and substituting “one year”.

11 Subsection 12(4) of Chapter 29 is amended by striking out “thirty days” and substituting “one year”.

PART IV

REGULATED HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT

12 Chapter 15 of the Acts of 2023, the *Regulated Health Professions Act*, is amended by adding immediately after Section 200 the following Section:

200A Chapter 12 of the Acts of 1993, the *Social Workers Act*, is repealed.

13 Section 201 of Chapter 15 is amended by

- (a) striking out “and” at the end of clause (c);
- (b) striking out the period at the end of clause (d) and substituting “; and”; and
- (c) adding immediately after clause (d) the following clause:
 - (e) striking out “*Social Workers*” in the first line of subclause (v) and substituting “regulations made under the *Regulated Health Professions*”.

14 Section 230 of Chapter 15 is amended by adding immediately after subsection (1) the following subsection:

(1A) Subsection 9(3) of Chapter 48 is repealed.

15 Chapter 15 is further amended by adding immediately after Section 231 the following Section:

231A Subsection 17(10) of Chapter 48 is repealed.

PART V

EFFECTIVE DATES

16 (1) Sections 5 and 7 to 9 come into force on such day as the Governor in Council orders and declares by proclamation.

(2) Section 6 has effect on and after March 17, 2015.