

CHAPTER 630  
Minors

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| 630.01 Endangering children.      | 630.03 Abusing or contributing to delinquency of a child. |
| 630.02 Interference with custody. |   |

CROSS REFERENCES

See section histories for similar State law  
 Juvenile Court - see Ohio R.C. Ch. 2151  
 Parents' liability for destructive acts of their children - see Ohio R.C. 3109.09  
 Definitions generally - see GEN. OFF. 606.01  
 Sales of alcoholic beverages to minors; prohibitions and misrepresentations - see GEN. OFF. 612.02  
 Posting liquor age warning signs - see GEN. OFF. 612.06  
 Poisoning children - see GEN. OFF. 618.04  
 Child stealing - see GEN. OFF. 636.07  
 Materials or performances harmful to juveniles - see GEN. OFF. 666.01(e), 666.11, 666.13  
 Juvenile defined - see GEN. OFF. 666.01(i)  
 Corruption of a minor - see GEN. OFF. 666.02  
 Sexual imposition - see GEN. OFF. 666.03  
 Importuning - see GEN. OFF. 666.04  
 Improperly furnishing firearms to a minor - see GEN. OFF. 672.10  
 Sale of explosives to minors - see GEN. OFF. 672.11

**630.01 ENDANGERING CHILDREN.**

- (a) No person, being the parent, guardian, custodian, person having custody or control, or person in loco parentis of a child under eighteen or a mentally or physically handicapped child under twenty-one years of age, shall create a substantial risk to the health or safety of such child by violating a duty of care, protection or support. It is not a violation of a duty of care, protection or support under this subsection when the parent, guardian, custodian or person having custody or control of a child treats the physical or mental illness or defect of such child by spiritual means through prayer alone, in accordance with the tenets of a recognized religious body.
- (b) No person shall do any of the following to a child under eighteen or a mentally or physically handicapped child under twenty-one:
- (1) Torture or cruelly abuse the child;
  - (2) Administer corporal punishment or other physical disciplinary measure or physically restrain the child in a cruel manner or for a prolonged period, which punishment, discipline or restraint is excessive under the circumstances and creates a substantial risk of serious physical harm to the child;

- (3) Repeatedly administer unwarranted disciplinary measures to the child when there is a substantial risk that such conduct, if continued, will seriously impair or retard the child's mental health or development.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of endangering children, a misdemeanor of the first degree, provided violation of this section does not result in serious physical harm to the child involved, and provided the offender has not previously been convicted of an offense under this section or of any offense involving neglect, abandonment, contributing to the delinquency of, or physical abuse of a child. Punishment shall be as provided in Section 698.02. (ORC 2919.22)

#### 630.02 INTERFERENCE WITH CUSTODY.

(a) No person, knowing he is without privilege to do so or being reckless in that regard, shall entice, take, keep or harbor any of the following persons from his parent, guardian or custodian:

- (1) A child under the age of eighteen or a mentally or physically handicapped child under the age of twenty-one;
- (2) A person committed by law to an institution for delinquent, unruly, neglected or dependent children;
- (3) A person committed by law to an institution for the mentally ill or mentally deficient.

(b) It is an affirmative defense to a charge of enticing or taking under subsection (a)(1) hereof that the actor reasonably believed that his conduct was necessary to preserve the child's health or safety. It is an affirmative defense to a charge of keeping or harboring under subsection (a) hereof that the actor in good faith gave notice to law enforcement or judicial authorities within a reasonable time after the child or committed person came under his shelter, protection or influence.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of interference with custody, a misdemeanor of the third degree. Punishment shall be as provided in Section 698.02. (ORC 2919.23)

#### 630.03 ABUSING OR CONTRIBUTING TO DELINQUENCY OF A CHILD.

(a) No person shall abuse a child or aid, abet, induce, cause, encourage or contribute to the dependency, neglect, unruliness or delinquency of a child or a ward of the Juvenile Court, or act in a way tending to cause delinquency or unruliness in such child. No person shall aid, abet, induce, cause or encourage a child or a ward of the Court, committed to the custody of any person, department, public or private institution, to leave the custody of such person, department, public or private institution, without legal consent. Each day of such contribution to such dependency, neglect, unruliness or delinquency is a separate offense. (ORC 2151.41)

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. Punishment shall be as provided in Section 698.02. (ORC 2151.99(A))