



SPONSOR: Rep. Heffernan & Sen. Sokola
Reps. Q. Johnson, Keeley, Mitchell

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
146th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE BILL NO. 245

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 11 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE ADOPTION OF PEOPLE FIRST LANGUAGE IN AND THE REMOVAL OF INSENSITIVE AND OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE FROM THE CRIMINAL CODE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

1 Section 1. Amend § 222, Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underlining and
2 deletions as shown by strikethrough as follows:

3 When used in this Criminal Code:

4 (1) "Building," in addition to its ordinary meaning, includes any structure, vehicle or watercraft. Where a building
5 consists of 2 or more units separately secured or occupied, each unit shall be deemed a separate building.

6 (2) "Controlled substance" or "counterfeit substance" shall have the same meaning as used in Chapter 47 of Title
7 16.

8 (3) "Conviction" means a verdict of guilty by the trier of fact, whether judge or jury, or a plea of guilty or a plea of
9 nolo contendere accepted by the court.

10 (4) "Dangerous instrument" means any instrument, article or substance which, under the circumstances in which it
11 is used, attempted to be used or threatened to be used, is readily capable of causing death or serious physical injury, or any
12 disabling chemical spray, as defined in paragraph (6) of this section or any electronic control devices including but not
13 limited to a neuromuscular incapacitation device designed to incapacitate a person.

14 (5) "Deadly weapon" includes a "firearm", as defined in paragraph (12) of this section, a bomb, a knife of any sort
15 (other than an ordinary pocketknife carried in a closed position), switchblade knife, billy, blackjack, bludgeon, metal
16 knuckles, slingshot, razor, bicycle chain or ice pick or any "dangerous instrument", as defined in paragraph (4) of this
17 section, which is used, or attempted to be used, to cause death or serious physical injury. For the purpose of this definition,
18 an ordinary pocketknife shall be a folding knife having a blade not more than 3 inches in length.

19 (6) "Disabling chemical spray" includes mace, tear gas, pepper spray or any other mixture containing quantities
20 thereof, or any other aerosol spray or any liquid, gaseous or solid substance capable of producing temporary physical

21 discomfort, disability or injury through being vaporized or otherwise dispersed in the air, or any cannister, container or
22 device designed or intended to carry, store or disperse such aerosol spray or such gas or solid.

23 (7) "Defraud" means to acquire a gain or advantage by fraud.

24 (8) "Drug" means any substance or preparation capable of producing any alteration of the physical, mental or
25 emotional condition of a person.

26 (9) "Elderly person" means any person who is 62 years of age or older. Thus, the terms "elderly person" and
27 "person who is 62 years of age or older" shall have the same meaning as used in this Code or in any action brought pursuant
28 to this Code.

29 (10) "Electronic control device" is a device designed to incapacitate a person, including but not limited to a
30 neuromuscular incapacitation device.

31 (11) "Female" means a person of the female sex.

32 (12) "Firearm" includes any weapon from which a shot, projectile or other object may be discharged by force of
33 combustion, explosive, gas and/or mechanical means, whether operable or inoperable, loaded or unloaded. It does not
34 include a BB gun.

35 (13) "Fraud" means an intentional perversion, misrepresentation or concealment of truth.

36 (14) "Law" includes statutes and ordinances. Unless the context otherwise clearly requires, "law" also includes
37 settled principles of the common law of Delaware governing areas other than substantive criminal law.

38 (15) "Law-enforcement officer" includes police officers, the Attorney General and the Attorney General's deputies,
39 sheriffs and their regular deputies agents of the State Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement, correctional officers,
40 state fire marshals, municipal fire marshals that are graduates of a Delaware Police Academy which is accredited/authorized
41 by the Council on Police Training, sworn members of the City of Wilmington Fire Department who have graduated from a
42 Delaware Police Academy which is authorized/accredited by the Council on Police Training, environmental protection
43 officers, enforcement agents of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, and constables.

44 (16) "Lawful" means in accordance with law or, where the context so requires, not prohibited by law.

45 (17) "Male" means a person of the male sex.

46 (18) ~~"Mental defect"~~ means any condition of the brain or nervous system recognized as defective, as compared
47 with an average or normal condition, by a substantial part of the medical profession.

48 (19)(18) "Mental illness" means any condition of the brain or nervous system recognized as a mental disease by a
49 substantial part of the medical profession.

50 (20)(19) "Narcotic drug" shall have the same definition as contained in § 4701(27) of Title 16.

(21)(20) "Oath or affirmation," for the purpose of warrants, can be made via videophone, telephone, secure electronic means or in person.

(22)(21) "Person" means a human being who has been born and is alive, and, where appropriate, a public or private corporation, a trust, a firm, a joint stock company, a union, an unincorporated association, a partnership, a government or a governmental instrumentality.

(23)(22) "Physical force" means any application of force upon or toward the body of another person.

(24)(23) "Physical injury" means impairment of physical condition or substantial pain.

(24) "Serious mental disorder" means any condition of the brain or nervous system recognized as defective, as compared with an average or normal condition, by a substantial part of the medical profession.

(25) "Serious physical injury" means physical injury which creates a substantial risk of death, or which causes serious and prolonged disfigurement, prolonged impairment of health or prolonged loss or impairment of the function of any bodily organ, or which causes the unlawful termination of a pregnancy without the consent of the pregnant female.

(26) "Telephone," in addition to its ordinary meaning, includes any computer (as defined in § 931 of this title) or any other electronic device which is actually used to engage in a wire communication (as defined in § 2401(20) of this title) with any other telephone, computer or electronic device.

(27) "Therapeutic abortion" means an abortion performed pursuant to subchapter IX of Chapter 17 of Title 24.

(28) "Unlawful" means contrary to law or, where the context so requires, not permitted by law. It does not mean wrongful or immoral.

(29) "Vehicle" includes any means in or by which someone travels or something is carried or conveyed or a means of conveyance or transport, whether or not propelled by its own power.

Section 2. Amend § 401(a), Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underlining and deletions as shown by strikethrough as follows:

(a) In any prosecution for an offense, it is an affirmative defense that, at the time of the conduct charged, as a result of mental illness or ~~mental defect~~ serious mental disorder, the accused lacked substantial capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the accused's conduct. If the defendant prevails in establishing the affirmative defense provided in this subsection, the trier of fact shall return a verdict of "not guilty by reason of insanity.

Section 3. Amend § 401(b), Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underlining and deletions as shown by strikethrough as follows:

(b) Where the trier of fact determines that, at the time of the conduct charged, a defendant suffered from a mental illness or ~~mental defect~~ serious mental disorder which substantially disturbed such person's thinking, feeling

81 or behavior and/or that such mental illness or ~~mental defect~~ serious mental disorder left such person with
82 insufficient willpower to choose whether the person would do the act or refrain from doing it, although
83 physically capable, the trier of fact shall return a verdict of "guilty, but mentally ill.

84 Section 4. Amend § 402(b), Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underlining and
85 deletions as shown by strikethrough as follows:

86 (b) A psychiatrist or other expert testifying at trial concerning the mental condition of the accused shall be
87 permitted to make a statement as to the nature of the examination, the psychiatrist's or expert's diagnosis of
88 the mental condition of the accused at the time of the commission of the offense charged and the psychiatrist's
89 or expert's opinion as to the extent, if any, to which the capacity of the accused to appreciate the wrongfulness
90 of the accused's conduct or to choose whether the accused would do the act or refrain from doing it or to have
91 a particular state of mind which is an element of the offense charged was impaired as a result of mental illness
92 or ~~mental defect~~ serious mental disorder at that time. The psychiatrist or expert shall be permitted to make
93 any explanation reasonably serving to clarify the diagnosis and opinion and may be cross-examined as to any
94 matter bearing on the psychiatrist's or expert's competence or credibility or the validity of the diagnosis or
95 opinion.

96 Section 5. Amend § 404(a), Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underlining and
97 deletions as shown by strikethrough as follows:

98 (a) Whenever the court is satisfied, after hearing, that an accused person, because of mental illness or ~~mental~~
99 ~~defect~~ serious mental disorder, is unable to understand the nature of the proceedings against the accused, or to
100 give evidence in the accused's own defense or to instruct counsel on the accused's own behalf, the court may
101 order the accused person to be confined and treated in the Delaware Psychiatric Center until the accused
102 person is capable of standing trial. However, upon motion of the defendant, the court may conduct a hearing
103 to determine whether the State can make out a *prima facie* case against the defendant, and if the State fails to
104 present sufficient evidence to constitute a *prima facie* case, the court shall dismiss the charge. This dismissal
105 shall have the same effect as a judgment of acquittal.

106 Section 6. Amend the catchline to § 405, Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by
107 underlining and deletions as shown by strikethrough as follows:

108 § 405. Confinement in Delaware Psychiatric Center of persons ~~becoming mentally~~—disabled developing mental
109 illness after conviction but before sentencing; adjustment of sentences.

110 Section 7. Amend § 405(a), Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underlining and
111 deletions as shown by strikethrough as follows:

112 (a) Whenever the court is satisfied that a prisoner has ~~become mentally ill~~ developed a mental illness after
113 conviction but before sentencing so that the prisoner is unable understandingly to participate in the sentencing
114 proceedings, and if the court is satisfied that a sentence of imprisonment may be appropriate, the court may
115 order the prisoner to be confined and treated in the Delaware Psychiatric Center until the prisoner is capable
116 of participating in the sentencing proceedings.

117 Section 8. Amend § 406, Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underlining and
118 deletions as shown by strikethrough as follows:

119 (a) Whenever in any case it appears to the Superior Court, upon information received from the Department of
120 Health and Social Services, that a prisoner confined with the Department has ~~become mentally ill~~ developed a
121 mental illness after conviction and sentence, the Court may appoint 2 reputable practicing physicians to
122 inquire of the mental condition of the prisoner and make report of their finding to the Court within 2 days
123 from the date of their appointment, by writing under their hands and seals. Should the report of the physicians
124 be that the prisoner ~~is mentally ill~~ has a mental illness, the prisoner shall at once be ordered by the Court
125 transferred from the prison facility where the prisoner is confined to the Delaware Psychiatric Center.

126 (b) The expenses of the removal of such ~~mentally ill person~~ a person with a mental illness and of admission into
127 such Psychiatric Center and maintenance therein up and until the time the person is discharged by the Court
128 shall be borne by the State. If any such ~~mentally ill person~~ a person with a mental illness has any real or
129 personal estate, the Department of Health and Social Services shall have for the expenses and charges so
130 incurred the same remedy as is provided in § 5127 of Title 16.

131 Section 9. Amend § 408(a), Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underlining and
132 deletions as shown by strikethrough as follows:

133 (a) Where a defendant's defense is based upon allegations which, if true, would be grounds for a verdict of "guilty,
134 but mentally ill" or the defendant desires to enter a plea to that effect, no finding of "guilty, but mentally ill"
135 shall be rendered until the trier of fact has examined all appropriate reports (including the presentence
136 investigation); has held a hearing on the sole issue of the defendant's mental illness, at which either party may
137 present evidence; and is satisfied that the defendant ~~was in fact mentally ill~~ did in fact have a mental illness at
138 the time of the offense to which the plea is entered. Where the trier of fact, after such hearing, is not satisfied
139 that the defendant ~~was mentally ill~~ had a mental illness at the time of the offense, or determines that the facts

140 do not support a “guilty, but mentally ill” plea, the trier of fact shall strike such plea, or permit such plea to be
141 withdrawn by the defendant. A defendant whose plea is not accepted by the trier of fact shall be entitled to a
142 jury trial, except that if a defendant subsequently waives the right to a jury trial, the judge who presided at the
143 hearing on mental illness shall not preside at the trial.

144 Section 10. Amend § 408(b), Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underlining and
145 deletions as shown by strikethrough as follows:

146 (b) In a trial under this section a defendant found guilty but mentally ill, or whose plea to that effect is accepted,
147 may have any sentence imposed which may lawfully be imposed upon any defendant for the same offense.
148 Such defendant shall be committed into the custody of the Department of Correction, and shall undergo such
149 further evaluation and be given such immediate and temporary treatment as is psychiatrically indicated. The
150 Commissioner shall retain exclusive jurisdiction over such person in all matters relating to security. The
151 Commissioner shall thereupon confine such person in the Delaware Psychiatric Center, or other suitable place
152 for the residential treatment of ~~criminally mentally ill~~ individuals under the age of 18 with criminal mental
153 illnesses who have been found nonamenable to the processes of Family Court. Although such person shall
154 remain under the jurisdiction of the Department of Correction, decisions directly related to treatment for the
155 mental illness for individuals placed at the Delaware Psychiatric Center, shall be the joint responsibility of the
156 Director of the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health and those persons at the Delaware Psychiatric
157 Center who are directly responsible for such treatment. The Delaware Psychiatric Center, or any other
158 residential treatment facility to which the defendant is committed by the Commissioner, shall have the
159 authority to discharge the defendant from the facility and return the defendant to the physical custody of the
160 Commissioner whenever the facility believes that such a discharge is in the best interests of the defendant.
161 The offender may, by written statement, refuse to take any drugs which are prescribed for treatment of the
162 offender’s mental illness; except when such a refusal will endanger the life of the offender, or the lives or
163 property of other persons with whom the offender has contact.

164 Section 11. Amend § 422, Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underlining and
165 deletions as shown by strikethrough as follows:

166 Evidence of voluntary intoxication shall not be admissible for the purpose of proving the existence of mental
167 illness, ~~mental defect, serious mental disorder~~ or psychiatric disorder within the meaning of § 401 of this title.

168 Section 12. Amend § 453(2), Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underlining and
169 deletions as shown by strikethrough as follows:

170 (2) It is given by a person who, because of youth, mental illness, mental condition, mental defect, serious mental
171 disorder, psychiatric disorder or intoxication is manifestly unable or known by the defendant to be unable to make a
172 reasonable judgment as to the nature or harmfulness of the conduct charged to constitute the offense; or

173 Section 13. Amend § 468(3), Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underlining and
174 deletions as shown by strikethrough as follows:

175 (3) The defendant is the guardian or other person similarly responsible for the general care and supervision of ~~an~~
176 ~~incompetent person a person who is incompetent~~, and:

177 a. The force is used for the purpose of safeguarding or promoting the welfare of the ~~incompetent person person~~
178 ~~who is incompetent~~, including the prevention of misconduct, or, when such ~~incompetent person person who is~~
179 ~~incompetent~~ is in a hospital or other institution for care and custody, for the maintenance of reasonable
180 discipline in such institution; and

181 b. The force used is reasonable and moderate; the size, age, condition of the ~~incompetent person person who is~~
182 ~~incompetent~~, location of the force and the strength and duration of the force shall be factors considered in
183 determining whether the force used is reasonable and moderate; and

184 c. The force is not enumerated under paragraph (1)c.; and

185 d. The force is not proscribed as abuse or mistreatment under Chapter 11 of Title 16; or

186 Section 14. Amend § 468(4), Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underlining and
187 deletions as shown by strikethrough as follows:

188 (4) The defendant is a doctor or other therapist or a person assisting at the doctor's or other therapist's direction,
189 and:

190 a. The force is used for the purpose of administering a recognized form of treatment which the defendant believes
191 to be adapted to promoting the physical or mental health of the patient; and

192 b. The treatment is administered with the consent of the patient or, if the patient is a minor or ~~an incompetent~~
193 ~~person a person who is incompetent~~, with the consent of a parent, guardian or other person legally competent to
194 consent in the patient's behalf, or the treatment is administered in an emergency when the defendant believes
195 that no one competent to consent can be consulted and that a reasonable person, wishing to safeguard the
196 welfare of the patient, would consent; or

197 Section 15. Amend the title to Subchapter V to Chapter 5 of Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making insertions
198 as shown by underlining and deletions as shown by strikethrough as follows:

199 Subchapter V. Offenses Relating to Children and ~~Incompetents~~ Vulnerable Adults.

200 Section 16. Amend §1105(e), Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underlining and

202 deletions as shown by strikethrough as follows:

203 (e) No person shall be sentenced for both an underlying offense and a crime against a vulnerable adult. No person
204 shall be sentenced for a violation of subsection (a) of this section if the underlying offense, as charged against
205 the accused, has an element that the victim was 62 years of age or older or was an ~~infirm adult~~ adult who is
206 impaired as defined in § 3902(2) of Title 31.

207 Section 17. Amend the catchline to § 3516, Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by
208 underlining and deletions as shown by strikethrough as follows:

209 § 3516. Hearsay exception for ~~infirm adult~~ an adult who is impaired or patient or resident victim's out-of-court
210 statement of abuse.

211 Section 18. Amend § 3516(a), Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underlining and
212 deletions as shown by strikethrough as follows:

213 (a) An out-of-court statement made by an adult who is impaired, as defined in § 3902 of Title 31, or by a patient or
214 resident of a state facility, as defined in § 1131 of Title 16, at the time of the proceeding concerning an act that is a material
215 element of any of the following offenses:

216 (1) Abuse, neglect, exploitation or mistreatment of an ~~infirm adult~~ adult who is impaired or a patient/resident, as

217 set forth in § 3913 of Title 31 and § 1136 of Title 16 respectively; or

218 (2) Any felony set forth in this title which is defined as a violent felony pursuant to § 4201 of this title; or

219 (3) Any felony set forth in subparts D, E, H or I of subchapter III of Chapter 5 of this title, that is not otherwise
220 admissible in evidence, is admissible in any judicial proceeding if the requirements of subsections (b) through
221 (f) of this section are met.

222 Section 19. Amend § 3913(a), Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underlining and
223 deletions as shown by strikethrough as follows:

224 (a) The result of any human immunodeficiency virus testing conducted pursuant to this subchapter shall only be
225 made available by the Division of Public Health to the victim, or the parent or guardian of the victim who is a
226 minor or is ~~mentally retarded or mentally incapacitated~~ has an intellectual disability or a mental incapacity,
227 the defendant, the court issuing the order for testing, and any other person or agency pursuant to Chapters 12
228 and 12A of Title 16.

230 Section 20. Amend § 4201(c), Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underlining and
231 deletions as shown by strikethrough as follows:

232 (c) The following felonies shall be designated as violent felonies:

233 Title 11, Section Crime

234 513 Conspiracy First Degree

235 602 Aggravated Menacing

236 604 Reckless Endangering First Degree

237 605 Abuse of a Pregnant Female in the Second Degree

238 606 Abuse of a Pregnant Female in the First Degree

239 612 Assault in the Second Degree

240 613 Assault in the First Degree

241 614 Assault on a Sports Official

242 615 Assault by Abuse

243 617 Criminal Youth Gangs

244 629 Vehicular Assault in the First Degree

245 630 Vehicular Homicide in the Second Degree

246 630A Vehicular Homicide in the First Degree

247 631 Criminally Negligent Homicide

248 632 Manslaughter

249 633 Murder by Abuse or Neglect in the Second Degree

250 634 Murder by Abuse or Neglect in the First Degree

251 635 Murder in the Second Degree

252 636 Murder in the First Degree

253 645 Promoting Suicide

254 768 Unlawful Sexual Contact in the Second Degree

255 769 Unlawful Sexual Contact in the First Degree

256 770 Former Unlawful Sexual Penetration in the Third Degree or

257 Rape in the Fourth Degree

258 771 Former Unlawful Sexual Penetration in the Second Degree or

259 Rape in the Third Degree

260 772 Former Unlawful Sexual Penetration in the First Degree or
261 Rape in the Second Degree
262 773 Former Unlawful Sexual Intercourse in the Third Degree or
263 Rape in the First Degree
264 774 Sexual Extortion
265 775 Bestiality
266 776 Continuous Sexual Abuse of Child
267 777 Dangerous Crime Against a Child
268 777A Sex Offender Unlawful Sexual Conduct Against a Child
269 778 Sexual Abuse of a Child by a Person in a Position of Trust,
270 Authority or Supervision in the First Degree
271 778A Sexual Abuse of a Child by a Person in a Position of
272 Trust, Authority or Supervision in the Second Degree
273 782 Unlawful Imprisonment in the First Degree
274 783 Kidnapping in the Second Degree
275 783A Kidnapping in the First Degree
276 802 Arson in the Second Degree
277 803 Arson in the First Degree
278 825 Burglary in the Second Degree
279 826 Burglary in the First Degree
280 831 Robbery in the Second Degree
281 832 Robbery in the First Degree
282 835 Carjacking in the Second Degree
283 836 Carjacking in the First Degree
284 846 Extortion
285 1108 Sexual Exploitation of a Child
286 1109 Unlawfully Dealing in Child Pornography
287 1112A Sexual Solicitation of a Child
288 1250 Assault in the First Degree Against a Law-Enforcement
289 Animal

290 1253 Escape After Conviction
291 1254 Assault in a Detention Facility
292 1256 Promoting Prison Contraband (Deadly Weapon)
293 1302 Riot
294 1304 Hate Crimes
295 1312 Stalking
296 1338 Bombs, Incendiary Devices, Molotov Cocktails and
297 Explosive Devices
298 1339 Adulteration (Causing Injury or Death)
299 1353 Promoting Prostitution in the First Degree
300 1442 Carrying a Concealed Deadly Weapon (Firearm Offense)
301 1444 Possessing a Destructive Weapon
302 1445 Unlawfully Dealing With a Dangerous Weapon
303 1447 Possessing a Deadly Weapon During the Commission of a
304 Felony
305 1447A Possessing a Firearm during the Commission of a Felony
306 1448(e) Possession of a Deadly Weapon by Persons Prohibited
307 (Firearm or Destructive Weapon Purchased, Owned, Possessed or Controlled by a Violent Felon).
308 1455 Engaging in a Firearms Transaction on Behalf of Another
309 (Subsequent Offense)
310 1449 Wearing Body Armor During the Commission of a Felony
311 1503 Racketeering
312 3533 Aggravated Act of Intimidation
313 Title 16,
314 Section Crime
315 1136 Abuse/Mistreatment/Neglect of a Patient
316 4751 Former Manufacture/Delivery/Possession With Intent to
317 Deliver a Controlled or Counterfeit Controlled Substance, Manufacture or
318 Delivery Causing Death
319 4752 Former Manufacture/Delivery/Possession With Intent to

320 Deliver a Controlled or Counterfeit Controlled Substance
321 4752A Former Unlawful Delivery of a Noncontrolled Substance
322 4753A Former Trafficking in Marijuana, Cocaine, Illegal Drugs,
323 Methamphetamine, LSD, Designer Drugs or MDMA
324 4752 Drug Dealing - Aggravated Possession; Class B Felony
325 4753 Drug Dealing - Aggravated Possession; Class C Felony
326 4754 Drug Dealing - Aggravated Possession; Class D Felony
327 4755 Aggravated Possession; Class E Felony
328 4756 Aggravated Possession; Class F Felony
329 4761 Former Distribution to Minors
330 4761(c) Illegal Delivery of Prescription Drugs
331 and (d)
332 4774 Delivery of Drug Paraphernalia to a Minor
333 Title 31,
334 Section Crime
335 3913 Abuse/Neglect/Exploit/Mistreat an Infirm-Adult who is Impaired
336 Any attempt to commit any felony designated in this subsection as a violent felony shall also be designated as a
337 violent felony.
338 Section 21. Amend § 4209(d)(3), Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underlining
339 and deletions as shown by strikethrough as follows:
340 (3)a. Not later than 90 days before trial the defendant may file a motion with the Court alleging that the defendant
341 ~~was seriously mentally retarded had a profound intellectual developmental disorder~~ at the time the crime was committed.
342 Upon the filing of the motion, the Court shall order an evaluation of the defendant for the purpose of providing evidence of
343 the following:
344 1. Whether the defendant has a significantly subaverage level of intellectual functioning;
345 2. Whether the defendant's adaptive behavior is substantially impaired; and
346 3. Whether the conditions described in paragraphs (d)(1) and (d)(2) of this section existed before the defendant
347 became 18 years of age.
348 b. During the hearing authorized by subsections (b) and (c) of this section, the defendant and the State may present
349 relevant and admissible evidence on the issue of the defendant's alleged ~~mental retardation~~ profound intellectual

350 developmental disorder, or in rebuttal thereof. The defendant shall have the burden of proof to demonstrate by clear and
351 convincing evidence that the defendant ~~was seriously mentally retarded~~ had a profound intellectual developmental disorder
352 at the time of the offense. Evidence presented during the hearing shall be considered by the jury in making its
353 recommendation to the Court pursuant to paragraph (c)(3) of this section as to whether the aggravating circumstances found
354 to exist outweigh the mitigating circumstances found to exist. The jury shall not make any recommendation to the Court on
355 the question of whether the defendant ~~was seriously mentally retarded~~ had a profound intellectual developmental disorder at
356 the time the crime was committed.

357 c. If the defendant files a motion pursuant to this paragraph claiming ~~serious mental retardation~~ he or she had a
358 profound intellectual developmental disorder at the time the crime was committed, the Court, in determining the sentence to
359 be imposed, shall make specific findings as to the existence of ~~serious mental retardation~~ a profound intellectual
360 developmental disorder at the time the crime was committed. If the Court finds that the defendant has established by clear
361 and convincing evidence that the defendant ~~was seriously mentally retarded~~ had a profound intellectual developmental
362 disorder at the time the crime was committed, notwithstanding any other provision of this section to the contrary, the Court
363 shall impose a sentence of imprisonment for the remainder of the defendant's natural life without benefit of probation or
364 parole or any other reduction. If the Court determines that the defendant has failed to establish by clear and convincing
365 evidence that the defendant ~~was seriously mentally retarded~~ had a profound intellectual developmental disorder at the time
366 the crime was committed, the Court shall proceed to determine the sentence to be imposed pursuant to the provisions of this
367 subsection. Evidence on the question of the defendant's ~~mental retardation~~ alleged profound intellectual developmental
368 disorder presented during the hearing shall be considered by the Court in its determination pursuant to this section as to
369 whether the aggravating circumstances found to exist outweigh the mitigating circumstances found to exist.

370 d. When used in this paragraph:

371 1. "Adaptive behavior" means the effectiveness or degree to which the individual meets the standards of personal
372 independence expected of the individual's age group, sociocultural background and community setting, as evidenced by
373 significant limitations in not less than 2 of the following adaptive skill areas: communication, self-care, home living, social
374 skills, use of community resources, self-direction, functional academic skills, work, leisure, health or safety;

375 2. "Seriously mentally retarded" or "serious mental retardation" "Profound intellectual developmental disorder"
376 means that an individual has significantly subaverage intellectual functioning that exists concurrently with substantial
377 deficits in adaptive behavior and both the significantly subaverage intellectual functioning and the deficits in adaptive
378 behavior were manifested before the individual became 18 years of age; and

379 3. "Significantly subaverage intellectual functioning" means an intelligent quotient of 70 or below obtained by
380 assessment with 1 or more of the standardized, individually administered general intelligence tests developed for the
381 purpose of assessing intellectual functioning.

382 Section 22. Amend § 4209(e)(1)q., Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underlining
383 and deletions as shown by strikethrough as follows:

384 q. The victim was ~~severely handicapped or severely disabled~~ particularly vulnerable due to a severe intellectual,
385 mental or physical disability.

386 Section 23. Amend § 6525, Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underlining and
387 deletions as shown by strikethrough as follows:

388 § 6525. Treatment of ~~mentally ill and mentally defective inmates~~ inmates with mental illnesses and serious mental
389 disorders; transfer.

390 (a) The Department shall establish resources and programs for the treatment of ~~mentally ill and defective~~
391 persons with mental illnesses and serious mental disorders, either in a separate facility or as part of
392 other institutions or facilities of the Department. The Department shall coordinate its work with any
393 other state agency to reduce overlapping or duplication of functions and services.

394 (b) The Commissioner is empowered to transfer to other appropriate state institutions for care and
395 treatment inmates who have been determined to ~~be mentally ill~~ have mental illnesses. Transfer may
396 also be made to such facilities in other jurisdictions, or to municipal or private facilities, upon the
397 consent of responsible administrators of such facilities. Such transfers shall occur only as set forth at
398 § 5153 of Title 16. Inmates to be transferred as contemplated herein who have not reached the age
399 of 18 years and have been found nonamenable to the processes of Family Court shall not be
400 transferred to the Delaware Psychiatric Center. Nonamenable inmates under the age of 18 years
401 shall be transferred to appropriate residential treatment facilities within the State of Delaware or in
402 other states.

403 (c) When, in the judgment of the administrator of the institution to which an inmate has been transferred,
404 the inmate has recovered from the condition which occasioned the transfer, the inmate shall be
405 returned to the Department.

406 Section 24. Amend § 6571(e), Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underlining and
407 deletions as shown by strikethrough as follows:

408 (e) "Institution" means any penal or correctional facility, including but not limited to a facility for the ~~mentally ill~~
409 ~~or mentally defective persons with mental illness or serious mental disorders~~, in which inmates as defined in
410 (d) above may lawfully be confined.

411 Section 25. Amend § 6703, Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underlining and
412 deletions as shown by strikethrough as follows:

413 For purposes of this chapter, the words "violent crime" shall mean: abuse of an ~~infirm~~ adult adult who is
414 impaired; abuse of a patient in a nursing facility; abuse of a patient causing injury; abuse of a patient causing
415 death; adulteration causing death; adulteration causing injury; aggravated intimidation; arson in the first degree;
416 arson in the second degree; assault in the first degree; assault in the second degree; assault in the third degree;
417 assault in the first degree on K-9 dog causing, injury or death to the dog; assault on a K-9 dog with risk of injury to
418 the dog; assault in a detention facility which causes injury; assault in a detention facility; assault on a sports
419 official; bestiality; burglary in the first degree; carjacking; carrying a concealed deadly weapon (firearm offense);
420 continuous sexual abuse of child; criminally negligent homicide; dealing with child pornography, second offense;
421 possession of a destructive weapon; reckless endangering; escape after conviction; escape in the second degree;
422 extortion; possession of an explosive device; unlawful imprisonment; incest; kidnapping in the first degree;
423 kidnapping in the second degree; manslaughter; manufacture or use or possession of explosives or an incendiary
424 device; murder in the first degree, murder in the second degree; organized crime and racketeering; possession of a
425 deadly weapon during the commission of a felony; possession of a destructive weapon; possession of a firearm
426 during the commission of a felony; promoting prison contraband (weapon); promoting prostitution in the first
427 degree; racketeering; reckless endangering first degree; reckless endangering in the second degree; riot; robbery in
428 the first degree; robbery in the second degree; continued sexual abuse of child; unlawful sexual contact in the first
429 degree; unlawful sexual contact in the second degree; unlawful sexual contact in the third degree; sexual
430 exploitation of a child; sexual extortion; rape in the first degree; rape in the second degree; rape in the third degree;
431 rape in the fourth degree; unlawful sexual intercourse in the first degree; unlawful sexual intercourse in the second
432 degree; unlawful sexual intercourse in the third degree; unlawful sexual penetration in the first degree; unlawful
433 sexual penetration in the second degree; unlawful sexual penetration in the third degree; stalking; terroristic
434 threatening; unlawful firearm transactions (second or subsequent offense); unlawful imprisonment in the first
435 degree; unlawful transportation of a firearm to commit a felony; vehicular assault in the first degree; vehicular
436 assault in the second degree; vehicular homicide in the first degree; vehicular homicide in the second degree;
437 wearing body armor during felony.

438 Section 26. Amend § 8564(a), Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underlining and
439 deletions as shown by strikethrough as follows:

440 (a) Definitions. -- As used in this section:

441 (1) "Adult abuse" means:

442 a. Physical abuse by unnecessarily inflicting pain or injury to an ~~infirm adult~~ adult who is impaired. This
443 includes, but is not limited to, hitting, kicking, pinching, slapping, pulling hair or any sexual molestation.
444 When any act constituting physical abuse has been proven, the infliction of pain shall be assumed.

445 b. Emotional abuse which includes, but is not limited to, ridiculing or demeaning an ~~infirm adult~~ adult who is impaired,
446 making derogatory remarks to an infirm adult or cursing directed towards an ~~infirm adult~~ adult who is impaired,
447 or threatening to inflict physical or emotional harm on an ~~infirm adult~~ adult who is impaired.

448 (2) "Adult who is impaired" means any person 18 years of age or older who, because of physical or mental
449 disability, is substantially impaired in the ability to provide adequately for the person's own care and custody or any person
450 who is a patient or resident of a nursing facility and similar facility.

451 (2)(3) "Child care facility" means any child care facility that is required to be licensed by the Department of
452 Services for Children, Youth and Their Families.

453 (3)(4) "Direct access" means the opportunity to have personal contact with persons receiving care during the
454 course of one's assigned duties.

455 (4)(5) "Financial exploitation" means the illegal or improper use or abuse of an ~~infirm adult's~~ adult who is impaired's resources or financial rights by another person, whether for profit or other advantage.

457 (5)(6) "Health care service provider" means any person or entity that provides services in a custodial or residential
458 setting where health, nutritional or personal care is provided for persons receiving care, including, but not limited to,
459 hospitals, home health care agencies, adult care facilities, temporary employment agencies and contractors that place
460 employees or otherwise provide services in custodial or residential settings for persons receiving care, and hospice
461 agencies. "Health care services provider" does not include any private individual who is seeking to hire a self-employed
462 health caregiver in a private home.

463 (6) "Infirm adult" means any person 18 years of age or older who, because of physical or mental disability, is
464 substantially impaired in the ability to provide adequately for the person's own care and custody or any person who is a
465 patient or resident of a nursing facility and similar facility.

466 (7) "Mistreatment" includes the inappropriate use of medications, isolation, or physical or chemical restraints on or
467 of an ~~infirm adult~~ adult who is impaired.

468 (8) "Neglect" means:

469 a. Lack of attention to physical needs of the ~~infirm adult~~ ~~adult who is impaired~~ including, but not limited to,
470 toileting, bathing, meals and safety;

471 b. Failure to report the health problems or changes in health problems or changes in health condition of an
472 ~~infirm adult~~ ~~adult who is impaired~~ to an immediate supervisor or nurse;

473 c. Failure to carry out a prescribed treatment plan for an ~~infirm adult~~ ~~adult who is impaired~~; or

474 d. A knowing failure to provide adequate staffing which results in a medical emergency to any ~~infirm adult~~
475 ~~adult who is impaired~~ where there has been documented history of at least 2 prior cited instances of such
476 inadequate staffing levels in violation of staffing levels required by statute or regulations promulgated by
477 the Department of Health and Social Services, all so as to evidence a willful pattern of such neglect.

478 (9) "Nursing facility" and "similar facility" means any facility required to be licensed under Chapter 11 of Title

479 16. This includes, but is not limited to, facilities commonly called nursing homes, assisted living facilities, intermediate
480 care facilities for persons with mental retardation, neighborhood group homes, family care homes and rest residential care
481 facilities. Also included are the Stockley Center, the Delaware Psychiatric Center and hospitals certified by the Department
482 of Health and Social Services pursuant to § 5001 or § 5136 of Title 16.

483 (10) "Person receiving care" means a person who, because of that person's physical or mental condition, requires a
484 level of care and services suitable to that person's needs to contribute to that person's health, comfort and welfare.

485 (11) "Person seeking employment" means any person applying for employment with or in a health care service
486 provider, nursing facility or similar facility or child care facility where the employment may afford direct access, or a
487 person applying for licensure to operate a child care facility. It shall also include a self-employed health caregiver who has
488 direct access in any private home.

SYNOPSIS

House Bill 214 of this General Assembly sought to convert the Delaware Code to the use of People First Language ("PFL") as part of a national movement to promote dignity and inclusion for people with disabilities. 78 DEL. LAWS c. 179 (2011). During the pendency of House Bill 214, it became clear that the proposed changes to the Delaware Criminal Code should be further studied. More specifically, there was a concern that certain phrases and language present in the criminal code might have meanings unique to criminal law that had been adopted from the Model Penal Code, settled by prior decisional law or otherwise been defined by practice and custom. It had been, and remains, the purpose of House Bill 214 and this Act to adopt PFL and related changes *only* for the purpose of removing insensitive and offensive language from the criminal code; not to in any way effect change in the statutory definitions of conditions or circumstances described therein or Delaware's substantive criminal law. In turn, those House Bill 214 criminal code provisions were amended out, researched and those changes deemed advisable are contained in this Act.

For example, in describing one statutory aggravating circumstance in Delaware's capital sentencing statute offensive language that labels the victim as "severely handicapped or severely disabled" now appears. This language would be changed to describe the victim instead as "particularly vulnerable due to a severe intellectual, mental or physical disability." This change in labeling language, however, would affect no definitional or substantive change. Such a victim would, just as now, be deemed a person who suffers from a temporary or permanent physical, intellectual or mental impairment resulting from disease, an injury, a functional disorder, or a congenital condition that renders him or her

incapable to adequately provide for his or her own personal care, safety or protection.

So too with the phraseology “severe mental retardation” now found in DEL. CODE ANN. tit. 11, § 4209. That phrase, which is unique to Delaware’s criminal statutes, would be updated to “profound intellectual developmental disorder.” While the label of this mitigating circumstance would be changed to this more acceptable form, again, there is absolutely no change to its legal definition, the legal burdens prescribed to prove such, or any other substantive aspect of related Delaware law.

In sum, none of the changes to the labeling language brought about by this Act should be viewed to affect prior Delaware judicial or legal interpretations of the terms or phrases amended.