

**235.1 Definitions.**

As used in [this chapter](#), unless the context otherwise requires:

1. “*Child*” means the same as defined in [section 234.1](#).
2. “*Child welfare services*” means social welfare services for the protection and care of children who are homeless, dependent or neglected, or in danger of becoming delinquent, or who have a mental illness or an intellectual disability or other developmental disability, including, when necessary, care and maintenance in a foster care facility. Child welfare services are designed to serve a child in the child’s home whenever possible. If not possible, and the child is placed outside the child’s home, the placement should be in the least restrictive setting available and in close proximity to the child’s home.
3. “*Department*” means the department of health and human services.
4. “*Director*” means the director of health and human services.  
[C39, §**3661.016**; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §235.1]  
[83 Acts, ch 101, §44](#); [92 Acts, ch 1229, §28](#); [94 Acts, ch 1023, §88](#); [2009 Acts, ch 133, §86](#);  
[2012 Acts, ch 1019, §93](#); [2023 Acts, ch 19, §690](#)