

**252A.2 Definitions.**

As used in [this chapter](#), unless the context shall require otherwise, the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them by [this section](#):

1. “*Birthing hospital*” means a private or public hospital licensed pursuant to [chapter 135B](#) that has a licensed obstetric unit or is licensed to provide obstetric services, or a licensed birthing center associated with a hospital.

2. “*Child*” includes but shall not be limited to a stepchild, foster child, or legally adopted child and means a child actually or apparently under eighteen years of age, and a dependent person eighteen years of age or over who is unable to maintain the person’s self and is likely to become a public charge.

3. “*Court*” shall mean and include any court upon which jurisdiction has been conferred to determine the liability of persons for the support of dependents.

4. “*Dependent*” shall mean and include a spouse, child, mother, father, grandparent, or grandchild who is in need of and entitled to support from a person who is declared to be legally liable for such support.

5. “*Institution*” means a birthing hospital.

6. “*Party*” means a petitioner, a respondent, or a person who intervenes in a proceeding instituted under [this chapter](#).

7. “*Petitioner*” includes each dependent person for whom support is sought in a proceeding instituted pursuant to [this chapter](#) or a mother or putative father of a dependent. However, in an action brought by child support services, the state is the petitioner.

8. “*Petitioner’s representative*” includes counsel of a dependent person for whom support is sought and counsel for a mother or putative father of a dependent. In an action brought by child support services, “*petitioner’s representative*” includes a county attorney, state’s attorney, and any other public officer, by whatever title the officer’s public office may be known, charged by law with the duty of instituting, maintaining, or prosecuting a proceeding under [this chapter](#) or under the laws of the state.

9. “*Putative father*” means a man who is alleged to be or who claims to be the biological father of a child born to a woman to whom the man is not married at the time of the birth of the child.

10. “*Respondent*” includes each person against whom a proceeding is instituted pursuant to [this chapter](#). “*Respondent*” may include the mother or the putative father of a dependent.

11. “*State registrar*” means state registrar as defined in [section 144.1](#).

[C50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §252A.2; 82 Acts, ch 1004, §6, 7]  
93 Acts, ch 79, §11; 94 Acts, ch 1171, §10, 11; 97 Acts, ch 175, §9; 2002 Acts, ch 1162, §78;  
2015 Acts, ch 110, §77; 2023 Acts, ch 19, §838