

## WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §61-8D-4

### **§61-8D-4. Child neglect resulting in injury; child neglect creating risk of injury; criminal penalties.**

(a) If a parent, guardian or custodian, or person in a position of trust in relation to a child neglects a child and by the neglect causes the child bodily injury, as bodily injury is defined in §61-8B-1 of this code, then the parent, guardian or custodian, or person in a position of trust in relation to a child is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000 or imprisoned in a state correctional facility for not less than one nor more than three years, or in the discretion of the court, be confined in jail for not more than one year, or both.

(b) If a parent, guardian or custodian, or person in a position of trust in relation to a child neglects a child and by such neglect causes the child serious bodily injury, as serious bodily injury is defined in §61-8B-1 of this code, then the parent, guardian or custodian, or person in a position of trust in relation to a child is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$300 nor more than \$3,000 or imprisoned in a state correctional facility for not less than one nor more than 10 years, or both.

(c) If a parent, guardian or custodian, or person in a position of trust in relation to a child grossly neglects a child and by that gross neglect creates a substantial risk of death or serious bodily injury, as serious bodily injury is defined in §61-8B-1 of this code, of the child then the parent, guardian or custodian, or person in a position of trust in relation to a child is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$3,000 dollars or imprisoned in a state correctional facility for not less than one nor more than five years, or both.

(d)(1) If a parent, guardian or custodian, or person in a position of trust in relation to a child who has not been previously convicted under this section, §61-8D-3 of this code, or a law of another state or the federal government with the same essential elements neglects a child and by that neglect creates a substantial risk of bodily injury, as defined in §61-8B-1 of this code, to the child, then the parent, guardian or custodian, or person in a position of trust in relation to a child is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, for a first offense, shall be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000 or confined in jail not more than six months, or both fined and confined.

(2) For a second offense under this subsection or for a person with one prior conviction under §61-8D-3 of this code or a law of another state or the federal government with the same essential elements, the parent, guardian or custodian, or person in a position of trust in relation to a child is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$1,000 and confined in jail not less than 30 days nor more than one year, or both.

(3) For a third or subsequent offense under this subsection or for a person with two or more prior convictions under this section, §61-8D-3 of this code, or a law of another state or the federal government with the same essential elements, the parent, guardian or custodian, or person in a position of trust in relation to a child is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$2,000 and imprisoned in a state correctional facility not less than one year nor more than three years, or both fined and imprisoned.

(e) The provisions of this section shall not apply if the neglect by the parent, guardian or custodian or person in a position of trust in relation to a child is due primarily to a lack of financial means on the part of the parent, guardian or custodian or person in a position of trust in relation to a child.

(f) Any person convicted of a misdemeanor offense under this section:

(1) May be required to complete parenting classes, substance abuse counseling, anger management counseling, or other appropriate services, or any combination thereof, as determined by Department of Human Services through its services assessment evaluation, which shall be submitted to the court of conviction upon written request;

(2) Shall not be required to register pursuant to the requirements of §15-13-1 of this code; and

(3) Shall not, solely by virtue of the conviction, have his or her custody, visitation or parental rights automatically restricted.