



## 2022 South Dakota Legislature

# House Bill 1110

*Introduced by: The Committee on Judiciary at the request of the Chief Justice*

1 **An Act to revise a provision related to the appointment of a guardian ad litem or a**  
 2 **special advocate to represent an abused or neglected child.**

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 **Section 1. That § 26-8A-20 be AMENDED:**

5 **26-8A-20.** If a child is an apparent or alleged abused or neglected child, the court  
 6 may appoint a special advocate to represent the best interests of the child and to assist  
 7 the child's attorney. If a child has been adjudicated an abused or neglected child and is  
 8 removed from the child's home with the child's parents, guardian, or custodian, the court  
 9 ~~shall~~ may appoint a guardian ad litem or a special advocate to represent the best interests  
 10 of the child and to assist the child's attorney. The guardian ad litem or special advocate is  
 11 an officer of the court for the purpose of representing the child's best interests. The  
 12 guardian ad litem or special advocate shall receive all reports concerning the child and  
 13 may cause the case to be reviewed by the court pursuant to § 26-8A-24.