



## **The Process of Passing the Illinois Childhood Independence Law**

In 2022, Illinois Representative Susan Scherer introduced a reasonable independence bill that unanimously passed the Illinois House but did not receive a vote in the Senate. This bill was negotiated by the Illinois ACLU, the Office of Public Guardian and other advocacy groups. Let Grow consulted with the ACLU about the legislation and provided factual support. In 2023, SB 1834 a bill in the same form was sponsored by Sen. Reggie Sims and passed both the Illinois Senate and the House unanimously.

A 2013 Illinois law, which Let Grow's legal consultant worked on in her previous role as the Executive Director of the Chicago-based Family Defense Center, had already amended the Illinois Abused and Neglect Child Reporting Act and provided language that Let Grow has employed in its own model legislation. In addition, class action litigation in Illinois led to strong regulatory language that protects the ability of parents to allow children to be unsupervised except if they are "blatantly disregarding obvious danger."

For more information see:

D. Redleaf, *The Challenge of Changing Amorphous Neglect Laws*, *The Quarterly* (Winter 2022). and D. Redleaf, [The Challenge of Changing America's Amorphous, Limitless Neglect Laws .The Imprint](#), (excerpting the Quarterly article cited above) (5/16/22). (These two articles discuss the 2013 Illinois law.

C. Fuller and D. Redleaf, [When Can Parents Let Children Be Alone](#) (Report, August 21, 2015).