**Exceptions for socioeconomic status (1 of 4)**

Arkansas: It is not considered neglect when the failure to provide appropriate care is caused primarily by the financial inability of the person legally responsible, and no services for relief have been offered.

California: “General neglect” does not include a parent's economic disadvantage. / A child shall not be found to be [suffering physical harm] solely due to...Indigence or other conditions of financial difficulty, including, but not limited to, poverty, the inability to provide or obtain clothing, home or property repair, or childcare.

DC: It is not neglect when the child's deprivation of parental care and control is due to a lack of financial means.

Louisiana: The inability of a parent or caregiver to provide for a child due to inadequate financial resources shall not, for that reason alone, be considered neglect.

Massachusetts: It is not considered neglect when the inability to care for the child is due solely to inadequate economic resources.

Oklahoma: Evidence of material, educational, or cultural disadvantage as compared to other children shall not be sufficient to prove that a child is deprived; the State shall prove that the child is deprived as defined.

Pennsylvania: No child shall be deemed to be abused based on injuries that result solely from environmental factors, such as inadequate housing, furnishings, income, clothing, and medical care, which are beyond the control of the parent.

Washington: The fact that siblings share a bedroom is not, in and of itself, negligent treatment or maltreatment. Poverty...does not constitute negligent treatment or maltreatment in and of itself.

West Virginia: A child is not considered neglected under the following circumstances: The lack of necessary food, clothing, shelter, or medical care is due primarily to a lack of financial means on the part of the parent.

Wisconsin: It is not considered neglect when the failure to provide a child with necessary care, food, clothing, shelter, medical, or dental care is due to poverty.

**Exceptions for unaccompanied/homeless status (2 of 4)**

California: A child shall not be found to be [suffering physical harm] solely due to homelessness or the lack of an emergency shelter for the family.

Missouri: The fact that a child is an unaccompanied youth...is not, in and of itself, a sufficient basis for reporting child abuse or neglect, unless the child is under age 16 or is an incapacitated person...Nothing in this subsection shall limit a mandated reporter from making a report if the mandated reporter knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that an unaccompanied youth has been or may be a victim of abuse or neglect.

Washington: Experiencing homelessness does not constitute negligent treatment or maltreatment in and of itself.

Wyoming: The fact a child, who is at least age 16, is homeless...shall not, in and of itself, constitute a sufficient basis for reporting neglect.

**Exceptions if services are unavailable or have not been offered (3 of 4)**

Arizona: A child is not considered neglected if a parent's inability to meet the needs of the child is due solely to the **unavailability of reasonable services**.

Arkansas: It is not considered neglect when the failure to provide appropriate care is caused primarily by the financial inability of the person legally responsible, and **no services for relief have been offered**.

**Exceptions for disability status (4 of 4)**

California: The **physical or mental incapacity, or both,** in itself, of a parent or a child, shall not result in a presumption of need for child welfare services.

Washington: No parent or guardian may be deemed abusive or neglectful solely by reason of the parent's or child's **blindness, deafness, developmental disability, or other disability.**