**24:05:13:04.  Parent.** For the purposes of this article, the term, parent, means:

(1)  A biological or adoptive parent of a child;

(2)  A foster parent, unless state law, regulations, or contractual obligations with a state or local entity prohibit a foster parent from acting as a parent;

(3)  A guardian generally authorized to act as the child's parent, or authorized to make educational decisions for the child, but not the state if the child is a ward of the state;

(4)  An individual acting in the place of a biological or adoptive parent, including a grandparent, stepparent, or other relative, with whom the child lives, or an individual who is legally responsible for the child's welfare; or

(5)  A surrogate parent who has been appointed in accordance with § 24:05:30:15.

Except as provided below, the biological or adoptive parent, if attempting to act as the parent under this article and if more than one party is qualified under this section to act as a parent, is presumed to be the parent for purposes of this section unless the biological or adoptive parent does not have legal authority to make educational decisions for the child.

If a judicial decree or order identifies a specific person or persons under subdivisions 1 to 4, inclusive, of this section to act as the parent of a child or to make educational decisions on behalf of a child, then the person or persons are deemed to be the parent for purposes of this section.

**Source:** 33 SDR 236, effective July 5, 2007.

**General Authority:** SDCL 13-37-1.1.

**Law Implemented:** SDCL 13-37-1.1.