

## PRINCIPLES CONTROLLING STATE POWER OVER A CHILD

- ❖ It is presumed that children lack the mental competence and maturity possessed by adults.
- ❖ Before intervening, the state must show that the child's parents or guardians are unfit, unable, or unwilling to care for the child.
- ❖ The state may exercise the *parens patriae* power solely to further the best interests of the child.