

Act No. 166
Public Acts of 1997
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STATE OF MICHIGAN
89TH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 1997

Introduced by Senators Cisky, Gougeon, Bouchard, Shugars, Peters, DeBeaussaert, McManus, Hart, Dunaskiss, Stille, Bullard, Conroy, Young, A. Smith and Stallings

ENROLLED SENATE BILL No. 503

AN ACT to amend 1975 PA 238, entitled "An act to require the reporting of child abuse and neglect by certain persons; to permit the reporting of child abuse and neglect by all persons; to provide for the protection of children who are abused or neglected; to authorize limited detainment in protective custody; to authorize medical examinations; to prescribe the powers and duties of the state department of social services to prevent child abuse and neglect; to prescribe certain powers and duties of local law enforcement agencies; to safeguard and enhance the welfare of children and preserve family life; to provide for the appointment of legal counsel; to provide for the abrogation of privileged communications; to provide civil and criminal immunity for certain persons; to provide rules of evidence in certain cases; to provide for confidentiality of records; to provide for the expungement of certain records; to prescribe penalties; and to repeal certain acts and parts of acts," by amending section 8 (MCL 722.628), as amended by 1997 PA 59.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Sec. 8. (1) Within 24 hours after receiving a report made under this act, the department shall refer the report to the prosecuting attorney if the report meets the requirements of section 3(6) or shall commence an investigation of the child suspected of being abused or neglected. Within 24 hours after receiving a report whether from the reporting person or from the department under section 3(6), the local law enforcement agency shall refer the report to the department if the report meets the requirements of section 3(7) or shall commence an investigation of the child suspected of being abused or neglected. If the child suspected of being abused is not in the physical custody of the parent or legal guardian and informing the parent or legal guardian would not endanger the child's health or welfare, the agency or the department shall inform the child's parent or legal guardian of the investigation as soon as the agency or the department discovers the identity of the child's parent or legal guardian.

(2) In the course of its investigation, the department shall determine if the child is abused or neglected. The department shall cooperate with law enforcement officials, courts of competent jurisdiction, and appropriate state agencies providing human services in relation to preventing, identifying, and treating child abuse and neglect; shall provide, enlist, and coordinate the necessary services, directly or through the purchase of services from other agencies and professions; and shall take necessary action to prevent further abuses, to safeguard and enhance the welfare of the child, and to preserve family life where possible.

(3) In conducting its investigation, the department shall seek the assistance of and cooperate with law enforcement officials within 24 hours after becoming aware that 1 or more of the following conditions exist:

(a) Abuse or neglect is the suspected cause of a child's death.

(b) The child is the victim of suspected sexual abuse or sexual exploitation.

(c) Abuse or neglect resulting in severe physical injury to the child requires medical treatment or hospitalization. For purposes of this subdivision and section 17, "severe physical injury" means brain damage, skull or bone fracture, subdural hemorrhage or hematoma, dislocation, sprains, internal injuries, poisoning, burns, scalds, severe cuts, or any other physical injury that seriously impairs the health or physical well-being of a child.

(d) Law enforcement intervention is necessary for the protection of the child, a department employee, or another person involved in the investigation.

(e) The alleged perpetrator of the child's injury is not a person responsible for the child's health or welfare.

(4) Law enforcement officials shall cooperate with the department in conducting investigations under subsections (1) and (3) and shall comply with sections 5 and 7. The department and law enforcement officials shall conduct investigations in compliance with the protocol adopted and implemented as required by subsection (6).

(5) Involvement of law enforcement officials under this section does not relieve or prevent the department from proceeding with its investigation or treatment if there is reasonable cause to suspect that the child abuse or neglect was committed by a person responsible for the child's health or welfare.

(6) In each county, the prosecuting attorney and the department shall develop and establish procedures for involving law enforcement officials as provided in this section. In each county, the prosecuting attorney and the department shall adopt and implement a standard child abuse and neglect investigation and interview protocol using as a model the protocol developed by the governor's task force on children's justice as published in DSS Publication 794 (8-93).

(7) If there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child in the care of or under the control of a public or private agency, institution, or facility is an abused or neglected child, the agency, institution, or facility shall be investigated by an agency administratively independent of the agency, institution, or facility being investigated. If the investigation produces evidence of a violation of section 145c or sections 520b to 520g of the Michigan penal code, 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.145c and 750.520b to 750.520g, the investigating agency shall transmit a copy of the results of the investigation to the prosecuting attorney of the county in which the agency, institution, or facility is located.

(8) Schools and other institutions shall cooperate with the department during an investigation of a report of child abuse or neglect. Cooperation includes allowing access to the child without parental consent if access is necessary to complete the investigation or to prevent abuse or neglect of the child. However, the department shall notify the person responsible for the child's health or welfare about the department's contact with the child at the time or as soon afterward as the person can be reached. The department may delay the notice if the notice would compromise the safety of the child or child's siblings or the integrity of the investigation, but only for the time 1 of those conditions exists.

(9) If the department has contact with a child in a school, all of the following apply:

(a) Before contact with the child, the department investigator shall review with the designated school staff person the department's responsibilities under this act and the investigation procedure.

(b) After contact with the child, the department investigator shall meet with the designated school staff person and the child about the response the department will take as a result of contact with the child. The department may also meet with the designated school staff person without the child present and share additional information the investigator determines may be shared subject to the confidentiality provisions of this act.

(c) Lack of cooperation by the school does not relieve or prevent the department from proceeding with its responsibilities under this act.

(10) A child shall not be subjected to a search at a school that requires the child to remove his or her clothing to expose his buttocks or genitalia or her breasts, buttocks, or genitalia unless the department has obtained an order from a court of competent jurisdiction permitting such a search. If the access occurs within a hospital, the investigation shall be conducted so as not to interfere with the medical treatment of the child or other patients.

(11) Except as provided in subsection (12), upon completion of the investigation by the local law enforcement agency or the department, the law enforcement agency or department may inform the person who made the report as to the disposition of the report.

(12) If the person who made the report is mandated to report under section 3, upon completion of the investigation by the department, the department shall inform the person in writing as to the disposition of the case and shall include in the information at least all of the following:

(a) Whether the case was substantiated and the rationale for that decision.

(b) Whether legal action was commenced and, if so, the nature of that action.

(c) Notification that the information being conveyed is confidential.

(13) Information sent under subsection (12) shall not include personally identifying information for a person named in a report or record made under this act.

Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect unless Senate Bill No. 515 of the 89th Legislature is enacted into law.

Carol Morey Viventi

Secretary of the Senate.

Mary B. Buehler

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Approved _____

Governor.