

SENATE BILL No. 273

February 22, 2007, Introduced by Senator HARDIMAN and referred to the Committee on Families and Human Services.

A bill to amend 1975 PA 238, entitled
"Child protection law,"
by amending section 8 (MCL 722.628), as amended by 2006 PA 630.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 8. (1) Within 24 hours after receiving a report made
2 under this act, the department shall refer the report to the
3 prosecuting attorney **AND THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY** if the
4 report meets the requirements of **SUBSECTION (3) (A), (B), OR (C) OR**
5 section 3(6) or (9) or shall commence an investigation of the child
6 suspected of being abused or neglected. Within 24 hours after
7 receiving a report whether from the reporting person or from the
8 department under **SUBSECTION (3) (A), (B), OR (C) OR** section 3(6) or
9 (9), the local law enforcement agency shall refer the report to the
10 department if the report meets the requirements of section 3(7) or

1 shall commence an investigation of the child suspected of being
2 abused or neglected or exposed to or who has had contact with
3 methamphetamine production. If the child suspected of being abused
4 or exposed to or who has had contact with methamphetamine
5 production is not in the physical custody of the parent or legal
6 guardian and informing the parent or legal guardian would not
7 endanger the child's health or welfare, the agency or the
8 department shall inform the child's parent or legal guardian of the
9 investigation as soon as the agency or the department discovers the
10 identity of the child's parent or legal guardian.

11 (2) In the course of its investigation, the department shall
12 determine if the child is abused or neglected. The department shall
13 cooperate with law enforcement officials, courts of competent
14 jurisdiction, and appropriate state agencies providing human
15 services in relation to preventing, identifying, and treating child
16 abuse and neglect; shall provide, enlist, and coordinate the
17 necessary services, directly or through the purchase of services
18 from other agencies and professions; and shall take necessary
19 action to prevent further abuses, to safeguard and enhance the
20 child's welfare, and to preserve family life where possible. In the
21 course of an investigation, at the time that a department
22 investigator contacts an individual about whom a report has been
23 made under this act or contacts an individual responsible for the
24 health or welfare of a child about whom a report has been made
25 under this act, the department investigator shall advise that
26 individual of the department investigator's name, whom the
27 department investigator represents, and the specific complaints or

1 allegations made against the individual. The department shall
2 ensure that its policies, procedures, and administrative rules
3 ensure compliance with the provisions of this act.

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

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

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

12 (c) Abuse or neglect resulting in severe physical injury to
13 the child. For purposes of this subdivision and section 17, "severe
14 physical injury" means an injury to the child that requires medical
15 treatment or hospitalization and that seriously impairs the child's
16 health or physical well-being.

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

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

22 (f) The child has been exposed to or had contact with
23 methamphetamine production.

24 (4) Law enforcement officials shall cooperate with the
25 department in conducting investigations under subsections (1) and
26 (3) and shall comply with sections 5 and 7. The department and law
27 enforcement officials shall conduct investigations in compliance

1 with the protocols adopted and implemented as required by
2 subsection (6).

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

8 (6) In each county, the prosecuting attorney and the
9 department shall develop and establish procedures for involving law
10 enforcement officials as provided in this section. In each county,
11 the prosecuting attorney and the department shall adopt and
12 implement standard child abuse and neglect investigation and
13 interview protocols using as a model the protocols developed by the
14 governor's task force on children's justice as published in FIA
15 Publication 794 (revised 8-98) and FIA Publication 779 (8-98), or
16 an updated version of those publications.

17 (7) If there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child in
18 the care of or under the control of a public or private agency,
19 institution, or facility is an abused or neglected child, the
20 agency, institution, or facility shall be investigated by an agency
21 administratively independent of the agency, institution, or
22 facility being investigated. If the investigation produces evidence
23 of a violation of section 145c or sections 520b to 520g of the
24 Michigan penal code, 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.145c and 750.520b to
25 750.520g, the investigating agency shall transmit a copy of the
26 results of the investigation to the prosecuting attorney of the
27 county in which the agency, institution, or facility is located.

1 (8) A school or other institution shall cooperate with the
2 department during an investigation of a report of child abuse or
3 neglect. Cooperation includes allowing access to the child without
4 parental consent if access is determined by the department to be
5 necessary to complete the investigation or to prevent abuse or
6 neglect of the child. ~~However, the~~ **THE** department shall notify the
7 person responsible for the child's health or welfare about the
8 department's contact with the child at the time or as soon
9 afterward as the person can be reached. The department may delay
10 the notice if the notice would compromise the safety of the child
11 or child's siblings or the integrity of the investigation, but only
12 for the time 1 of those conditions exists.

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

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

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

26 (c) Lack of cooperation by the school does not relieve or
27 prevent the department from proceeding with its responsibilities

1 under this act.

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

10 (11) The department shall enter each report made under this
11 act that is the subject of a field investigation into the CPSI
12 system. The department shall maintain a report entered on the CPSI
13 system as required by this subsection until the child about whom
14 the investigation is made is 18 years old or until 10 years after
15 the investigation is commenced, whichever is later, or, if the case
16 is classified as a central registry case, until the department
17 receives reliable information that the perpetrator of the abuse or
18 neglect is dead. Unless made public as specified information
19 released under section 7d, a report that is maintained on the CPSI
20 system is confidential and is not subject to the disclosure
21 requirements of the freedom of information act, 1976 PA 442, MCL
22 15.231 to 15.246.

23 (12) After completing a field investigation and based on its
24 results, the department shall determine in which single category,
25 prescribed by section 8d, to classify the allegation of child abuse
26 or neglect.

27 (13) Except as provided in subsection (14), upon completion of

1 the investigation by the local law enforcement agency or the
2 department, the law enforcement agency or department may inform the
3 person who made the report as to the disposition of the report.

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

9 (a) What determination the department made under subsection
10 (12) and the rationale for that decision.

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

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

15 (15) Information sent under subsection (14) shall not include
16 personally identifying information for a person named in a report
17 or record made under this act.

18 (16) Unless section 5 of chapter XII of the probate code of
19 1939, 1939 PA 288, MCL 712.5, requires a physician to report to the
20 department, the surrender of a newborn in compliance with chapter
21 XII of the probate code of 1939, 1939 PA 288, MCL 712.1 to 712.20,
22 is not reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or neglect and is
23 not subject to the section 3 reporting requirement. This subsection
24 does not apply to circumstances that arise on or after the date
25 that chapter XII of the probate code of 1939, 1939 PA 288, MCL
26 712.1 to 712.20, is repealed. This subsection applies to a newborn
27 whose birth is described in the born alive infant protection act,

1 2002 PA 687, MCL 333.1071 TO 333.1073, and who is considered to be
2 a newborn surrendered under the safe delivery of newborns law as
3 provided in section 3 of chapter XII of the probate code of 1939,
4 1939 PA 288, MCL 712.3.

5 (17) All department employees involved in investigating child
6 abuse or child neglect cases shall be trained in the legal duties
7 to protect the state and federal constitutional and statutory
8 rights of children and families from the initial contact of an
9 investigation through the time services are provided.