

SENATE BILL No. 420

May 31, 2017, Introduced by Senator PAVLOV and referred to the Committee on Families,
Seniors and Human Services.

A bill to amend 1975 PA 238, entitled
"Child protection law,"
by amending sections 2 and 18 (MCL 722.622 and 722.638), section 2
as amended by 2016 PA 491 and section 18 as amended by 2010 PA 12.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 2. As used in this act:

2 (a) "Adult foster care location authorized to care for a
3 child" means an adult foster care family home or adult foster care
4 small group home as defined in section 3 of the adult foster care
5 facility licensing act, 1979 PA 218, MCL 400.703, in which a child
6 is placed in accordance with section 5 of 1973 PA 116, MCL 722.115.

7 (b) "Attorney" means, if appointed to represent a child under
8 the provisions referenced in section 10, an attorney serving as the

1 child's legal advocate in the manner defined and described in
2 section 13a of chapter XIIIA of the probate code of 1939, 1939 PA
3 288, MCL 712A.13a.

4 (c) "Central registry" means the system maintained at the
5 department that is used to keep a record of all reports filed with
6 the department under this act in which relevant and accurate
7 evidence of child abuse or child neglect is found to exist.

8 (d) "Central registry case" means a child protective services
9 case that the department classifies under sections 8 and 8d as
10 category I or category II. For a child protective services case
11 that was investigated before July 1, 1999, central registry case
12 means an allegation of child abuse or child neglect that the
13 department substantiated.

14 (e) "Centralized intake" means the department's statewide
15 centralized processing center for reports of suspected child abuse
16 and child neglect.

17 (f) "Child" means a person under 18 years of age.

18 (g) "Child abuse" means harm or threatened harm to a child's
19 health or welfare that occurs through nonaccidental physical or
20 mental injury, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or maltreatment,
21 by a parent, a legal guardian, or any other person responsible for
22 the child's health or welfare or by a teacher, a teacher's aide, or
23 a member of the clergy.

24 (h) "Child care organization" means that term as defined in
25 section 1 of 1973 PA 116, MCL 722.111.

26 (i) "Child care provider" means an owner, operator, employee,
27 or volunteer of a child care organization or of an adult foster

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1 care location authorized to care for a child.

2 (j) "Child care regulatory agency" means the department of
3 licensing and regulatory affairs or a successor state department
4 that is responsible for the licensing or registration of child care
5 organizations or the licensing of adult foster care locations
6 authorized to care for a child.

7 (k) "Child neglect" means harm or threatened harm to a child's
8 health or welfare by a parent, legal guardian, or any other person
9 responsible for the child's health or welfare that occurs through
10 either of the following:

11 (i) Negligent treatment, including the failure to provide
12 adequate food, clothing, shelter, or medical care, **THOUGH<<, IN THE**
13 **COURT'S DISCRETION, FINANCIALLY ABLE TO DO SO OR, IN THE COURT'S**
14 **DISCRETION, THE FAILURE TO SEEK FINANCIAL OR OTHER REASONABLE MEANS TO DO**
15 **SO.>>**

16 (ii) Placing a child at an unreasonable risk to the child's
17 health or welfare by failure of the parent, legal guardian, or
18 other person responsible for the child's health or welfare to
19 intervene to eliminate that risk when that person is able to do so
20 and has, or should have, knowledge of the risk.

21 (l) "Children's advocacy center" means an entity accredited as
22 a child advocacy center by the National Children's Alliance or its
23 successor agency or an entity granted associate or developing
24 membership status by the National Children's Alliance or its
25 successor agency.

26 (m) "Citizen review panel" means a panel established as
27 required by section 5106a of the child abuse prevention and
treatment act, 42 USC 5106a.

1 (n) "Member of the clergy" means a priest, minister, rabbi,
2 Christian science practitioner, or other religious practitioner, or
3 similar functionary of a church, temple, or recognized religious
4 body, denomination, or organization.

5 (o) "Controlled substance" means that term as defined in
6 section 7104 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.7104.

7 (p) "CPSI system" means the child protective service
8 information system, which is an internal data system maintained
9 within and by the department, and which is separate from the
10 central registry and not subject to section 7.

11 (q) "Department" means the department of health and human
12 services.

13 (r) "Director" means the director of the department.

14 (s) "Expunge" means to physically remove or eliminate and
15 destroy a record or report.

16 (t) "Lawyer-guardian ad litem" means an attorney appointed
17 under section 10 who has the powers and duties referenced by
18 section 10.

19 (u) "Local office file" means the system used to keep a record
20 of a written report, document, or photograph filed with and
21 maintained by a county or a regionally based office of the
22 department.

23 (v) "Nonparent adult" means a person who is 18 years of age or
24 older and who, regardless of the person's domicile, meets all of
25 the following criteria in relation to a child:

26 (i) Has substantial and regular contact with the child.

27 (ii) Has a close personal relationship with the child's parent

1 or with a person responsible for the child's health or welfare.

2 (iii) Is not the child's parent or a person otherwise related
3 to the child by blood or affinity to the third degree.

4 (w) "Online reporting system" means the electronic system
5 established by the department for individuals identified in section
6 3(1) to report suspected child abuse or child neglect.

7 (x) "Person responsible for the child's health or welfare"
8 means a parent, legal guardian, person 18 years of age or older who
9 resides for any length of time in the same home in which the child
10 resides, or, except when used in section 7(2)(e) or 8(8), nonparent
11 adult; or an owner, operator, volunteer, or employee of 1 or more
12 of the following:

13 (i) A licensed or registered child care organization.

14 (ii) A licensed or unlicensed adult foster care family home or
15 adult foster care small group home as defined in section 3 of the
16 adult foster care facility licensing act, 1979 PA 218, MCL 400.703.

17 (iii) A court-operated facility as approved under section 14
18 of the social welfare act, 1939 PA 280, MCL 400.14.

19 (y) "Relevant evidence" means evidence having a tendency to
20 make the existence of a fact that is at issue more probable than it
21 would be without the evidence.

22 (z) "Sexual abuse" means engaging in sexual contact or sexual
23 penetration as those terms are defined in section 520a of the
24 Michigan penal code, 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.520a, with a child.

25 (aa) "Sexual exploitation" includes allowing, permitting, or
26 encouraging a child to engage in prostitution, or allowing,
27 permitting, encouraging, or engaging in the photographing, filming,

1 or depicting of a child engaged in a listed sexual act as defined
2 in section 145c of the Michigan penal code, 1931 PA 328, MCL
3 750.145c.

4 (bb) "Specified information" means information in a children's
5 protective services case record related specifically to the
6 department's actions in responding to a complaint of child abuse or
7 child neglect. Specified information does not include any of the
8 following:

9 (i) Except as provided in this subparagraph regarding a
10 perpetrator of child abuse or child neglect, personal
11 identification information for any individual identified in a child
12 protective services record. The exclusion of personal
13 identification information as specified information prescribed by
14 this subparagraph does not include personal identification
15 information identifying an individual alleged to have perpetrated
16 child abuse or child neglect, which allegation has been classified
17 as a central registry case.

18 (ii) Information in a police agency report or other law
19 enforcement agency report as provided in section 7(8).

20 (iii) Any other information that is specifically designated as
21 confidential under other law.

22 (iv) Any information not related to the department's actions
23 in responding to a report of child abuse or child neglect.

24 (cc) "Structured decision-making tool" means the department
25 document labeled "DSS-4752 (P3) (3-95)" or a revision of that
26 document that better measures the risk of future harm to a child.

27 (dd) "Substantiated" means a child protective services case

classified as a central registry case.

(ee) "Unsubstantiated" means a child protective services case the department classifies under sections 8 and 8d as category III, category IV, or category V.

Sec. 18. (1) The department shall submit a petition for authorization by the court under section 2(b) of chapter XIIA of 1939 PA 288, MCL 712A.2, if 1 or more of the following apply:

(a) The department determines that a parent, guardian, or custodian, or a person who is 18 years of age or older and who resides for any length of time in the child's home, has abused the child or a sibling of the child and the abuse included 1 or more of the following:

(i) Abandonment of a young child.

(ii) Criminal sexual conduct involving penetration, attempted penetration, or assault with intent to penetrate.

(iii) Battering, torture, or other severe physical abuse.

(iv) Loss or serious impairment of an organ or limb.

(v) Life threatening injury.

(vi) Murder or attempted murder.

(b) The department determines that there is risk of harm, **ABUSE, OR NEGLECT** to the child and either of the following is true:

(i) The parent's rights to another child were terminated as a result of proceedings under section 2(b) of chapter XIIA of 1939 PA 288, MCL 712A.2, or a similar law of another state **AND THE PARENT HAS FAILED TO RECTIFY THE CONDITIONS THAT LED TO THE PRIOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS.**

(ii) The parent's rights to another child were voluntarily

1 terminated following the initiation of proceedings under section
2 2(b) of chapter XIIIA of 1939 PA 288, MCL 712A.2, or a similar law
3 of another state, **THE PARENT HAS FAILED TO RECTIFY THE CONDITIONS**
4 **THAT LED TO THE PRIOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS**, and the
5 proceeding involved abuse that included 1 or more of the following:

6 (A) Abandonment of a young child.

7 (B) Criminal sexual conduct involving penetration, attempted
8 penetration, or assault with intent to penetrate.

9 (C) Battering, torture, or other severe physical abuse.

10 (D) Loss or serious impairment of an organ or limb.

11 (E) Life-threatening injury.

12 (F) Murder or attempted murder.

13 (G) Voluntary manslaughter.

14 (H) Aiding and abetting, attempting to commit, conspiring to
15 commit, or soliciting murder or voluntary manslaughter.

16 (2) In a petition submitted as required by subsection (1), if
17 a parent is a suspected perpetrator or is suspected of placing the
18 child at an unreasonable risk of harm due to the parent's failure
19 to take reasonable steps to intervene to eliminate that risk, the
20 department shall include a request for termination of parental
21 rights at the initial dispositional hearing as authorized under
22 section 19b of chapter XIIIA of 1939 PA 288, MCL 712A.19b.

23 (3) If the department is considering petitioning for
24 termination of parental rights at the initial dispositional hearing
25 as authorized under section 19b of chapter XIIIA of 1939 PA 288, MCL
26 712A.19b, even though the facts of the child's case do not require
27 departmental action under subsection (1), the department shall hold

1 a conference among the appropriate agency personnel to agree upon
2 the course of action. The department shall notify the attorney
3 representing the child of the time and place of the conference, and
4 the attorney may attend. If an agreement is not reached at this
5 conference, the department director or the director's designee
6 shall resolve the disagreement after consulting the attorneys
7 representing both the department and the child.

8 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 90 days
9 after the date it is enacted into law.