



THOMAS J. VILSACK
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SALLY J. PEDERSON
LT. GOVERNOR

May 2, 2003

The Honorable Chester Culver
Secretary of State
State Capitol Building
LOCAL

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I hereby transmit:

Senate File 353, an Act requiring establishment of county child protection assistance teams.

The above Senate File is hereby approved this date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Vilsack", written over a circular stamp.

Thomas J. Vilsack
Governor

TJV:jmc

cc: Secretary of the Senate
Chief Clerk of the House





SENATE FILE 353

AN ACT
REQUIRING ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNTY CHILD PROTECTION ASSISTANCE
TEAMS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

Section 1. Section 232.71B, subsection 3, Code 2003, is amended to read as follows:

3. INVOLVEMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT. The department shall apply ~~a-protect~~ protocols, developed with ~~representatives-of-law-enforcement-agencies-at-the-local-level~~ the local child protection assistance team established pursuant to section 915.35, to prioritize the actions taken in response to child abuse reports and to work jointly with child protection assistance teams and law enforcement agencies in performing assessment and investigative processes for child abuse reports in which a criminal act harming a child is alleged. The county attorney and appropriate law enforcement agencies shall also take any other lawful action which may be necessary or advisable for the protection of the child. If a report is determined not to constitute a child abuse allegation, but a criminal act harming a child is alleged, the department shall immediately refer the matter to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Sec. 2. Section 235A.15, subsection 2, paragraph b, Code 2003, is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:

NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (10) To the child protection assistance team established in accordance with section 915.35 for the county in which the report was made.

Sec. 3. Section 331.756, Code 2003, is amended by adding the following new subsection:

NEW SUBSECTION. 83B. Establish a child protection assistance team in accordance with section 915.35.

Sec. 4. Section 915.35, subsection 4, Code 2003, is amended to read as follows:

4. a. To-the-greatest-extent-possible,-a multidisciplinary A child protection assistance team involving the county attorney, law enforcement personnel, community-based-child-advocacy-organizations, and personnel of the department of human services shall be established for each county by the county attorney. However, by mutual agreement, two or more county attorneys may establish a single child protection assistance team to cover a multicounty area. A child protection assistance team, to the greatest extent possible, may be consulted in cases involving a forcible felony against a child who is less than age fourteen in which the suspected offender is the person responsible for the care of a child, as defined in section 232.68. A child protection assistance team may also be utilized in investigating-and prosecuting cases involving a violation of chapter 709 or 726 or other crime committed upon a victim as defined in subsection 1.

b. A multidisciplinary child protection assistance team may also consult with or include juvenile court officers, medical and mental health professionals, physicians or other hospital-based health professionals, court-appointed special advocates, guardians ad litem, and members of a multidisciplinary team created by the department of human services for child abuse investigations. A child protection assistance team may work cooperatively with the local community empowerment area board established under section 28.6. The child protection assistance team shall work with the department of human services in accordance with section 232.71B, subsection 3, in developing the protocols for prioritizing the actions taken in response to child abuse reports and for law enforcement agencies working jointly with the department at the local level in processes for child abuse reports. The department of justice may provide training and other assistance to support the activities of a multidisciplinary child protection assistance team referred-to in-this-subsection.

Sec. 5. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACT. Section 25B.2, subsection 3, shall not apply to this Act.



MARY E. KRAMER

President of the Senate



CHRISTOPHER C. RANTS

Speaker of the House

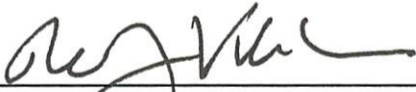
I hereby certify that this bill originated in the Senate and is known as Senate File 353, Eightieth General Assembly.



MICHAEL E. MARSHALL

Secretary of the Senate

Approved May 2, 2003



THOMAS J. VILSACK

Governor