

3-8-95 Human Res.  
3-16-95 Do Pass  
H. 3-29-95 Human Resources  
FILED MAR 8 1995

SENATE FILE 282  
BY FINK

Passed Senate, Date (p. 898) 3/28/95 Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes 49 Nays 0 Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to child abuse investigations by prohibiting  
2 release of the identity of a reporter of child abuse.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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S.F. 282

1 Section 1. Section 232.71, subsection 1, Code 1995, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. If a report is determined to constitute a child abuse  
4 allegation, the department of human services shall promptly  
5 commence an appropriate investigation. The primary purpose of  
6 this investigation shall be the protection of the child named  
7 in the report. The department, within five working days of  
8 commencing the investigation, shall provide written  
9 notification of the investigation to the child's parents.  
10 However, if the department shows the court to the court's  
11 satisfaction that notification is likely to endanger the child  
12 or other persons, the court shall orally direct the department  
13 to withhold notification. Within one working day of issuing  
14 an oral directive, the court shall issue a written order  
15 restraining the notification. The department shall not reveal  
16 in the written notification to the parents or otherwise the  
17 identity of the reporter of child abuse during an  
18 investigation to a subject of a child abuse report listed in  
19 section 235A.15, subsection 2, paragraph "a". If a report is  
20 determined not to constitute a child abuse allegation, but a  
21 criminal act harming a child is alleged, the department shall  
22 immediately refer the matter to the appropriate law  
23 enforcement agency.

24 EXPLANATION

25 This bill relates to child abuse investigations by  
26 prohibiting release of the identity of a reporter of child  
27 abuse to a subject of the child abuse report during a child  
28 abuse investigation. A subject of a child abuse report may  
29 include the child, the child's parent, guardian, or legal  
30 custodian, or an attorney of any such individual. The bill  
31 does not affect the provisions of law, which upon completion  
32 of an investigation, require notification of the subjects of a  
33 child abuse report concerning the result of the investigation  
34 and does not affect a subject's rights concerning correction  
35 of the information in the report.