

CHAPTER 1175**CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM PROVISIONS**

S.F. 2399

AN ACT relating to child protection system provisions involving the child abuse assessment pilot projects administered by the department of human services and certain multidisciplinary teams, and providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. Section 232.71A, subsections 3, 5, 6, and 8, Code Supplement 1995, are amended to read as follows:

3. Upon receipt of a child abuse report in a pilot project area, the department shall notify the appropriate county attorney of the receipt of the report and shall perform an assessment. The department shall commence the assessment within ~~seventy-two~~ twenty-four hours of the receipt of the report. The primary purpose of the assessment shall be to protect the safety of the child named in the report. The secondary purpose of the assessment shall be to engage the child's family in services to enhance family strengths and to address needs.

5. A child abuse assessment shall be completed in writing within ~~twenty-one calendar~~ twenty business days of the receipt of the report. The assessment shall include a description of the child's condition, identification of the injury or risk to which the child was exposed, the circumstances which led to the injury or risk to the child, and the identity of any person alleged to be responsible for the injury or risk to the child. In addition, the assessment shall identify the strengths and needs of the child, and of the child's parent, home, family, and community. Upon completion of the assessment, the department shall consult with the child's family in offering services to the child and the child's family to address strengths and needs identified in the assessment.

6. The department shall provide the juvenile court and the county attorney with a written copy of any the written assessment which includes a recommendation for a juvenile or criminal court action or petition pertaining to the child abuse report. The juvenile court and the county attorney shall notify the department of any action taken concerning an assessment provided by the department.

8. The department shall implement the pilot projects by January 15, 1996. The department shall report to the governor and the general assembly concerning the pilot projects on or before ~~February 29~~ December 16, 1996. The report shall include a the following information:

a. A description of successes and problems encountered in implementing the pilot projects.

b. An analysis of the effect of the pilot projects on utilizing the child abuse registry for the tracking of a pattern of child abuse incidents.

c. The outcome changes for children in the pilot project areas where the assessment approach is utilized in response to an allegation of child abuse versus the investigation approach utilized in other areas of the state.

d. A copy of any report provided by a county attorney in a pilot project area, a copy of any report provided by the county attorney's association, and a copy of any report provided by the juvenile court in a pilot project area.

PARAGRAPH DIVIDED. It is the intent of the general assembly to ~~implement~~ consider implementing statewide an assessment-based approach to respond to child abuse reports commencing ~~with the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1996~~ February 10, 1997.

Sec. 2. Section 232.71A, subsection 4, Code Supplement 1995, is amended by adding the following new paragraph:

NEW PARAGRAPH. h. The department shall work with representatives of law enforcement at the local level to develop a protocol for joint investigative processes.

Sec. 3. Section 232.71A, subsection 7, paragraph a, Code Supplement 1995, is amended by adding the following new subparagraphs:

NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (4) The department determines the abuse meets the defini-

tion of child abuse under section 232.68, subsection 2, paragraph "c", and the alleged perpetrator of the abuse is age fourteen or older. However, the juvenile court may order the removal from the central registry of the name of a perpetrator of abuse placed in the registry pursuant to this subparagraph who is age fourteen through seventeen upon a finding of good cause. The name of a perpetrator who is less than age fourteen shall not be placed in the central registry pursuant to this subparagraph.

NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (5) The department determines the alleged perpetrator of the abuse will continue to pose a danger to the child who is the subject of the report of abuse or to another child with whom the alleged perpetrator may come into contact.

Sec. 4. Section 235A.15, subsection 2, paragraph e, Code Supplement 1995, is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:

NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (15) To a person who submits written authorization from an individual allowing the person access to information pursuant to this subsection on behalf of the individual in order to verify whether the individual is named in a founded child abuse report as having abused a child.

Sec. 5. Section 910A.16, subsection 4, Code 1995, is amended to read as follows:

4. To the greatest extent possible, a multidisciplinary team involving the county attorney, law enforcement personnel, community-based child advocacy organizations, and personnel of the department of human services shall 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. A multidisciplinary team may also consult with or include juvenile court officers, medical and mental 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. The department of justice may provide training and other assistance to support the activities of a multidisciplinary team referred to in this subsection.

Sec. 6. CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM REVIEW. The department of human services shall convene a group consisting of interested members of the general assembly, persons involved with child protection, and other interested persons to consult with national experts in child protection. The group shall be convened during the 1996 legislative interim and may submit a report to the governor and the general assembly.

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

Approved April 30, 1996

CHAPTER 1176

PURCHASING DIVISION - AGGRIEVED BIDDER APPEALS

H.F. 476

AN ACT eliminating the appeal period for the awarding of contracts by the purchasing division of the department of general services.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. Section 18.7, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 1995, is amended by striking the paragraph.

Approved April 30, 1996