

1 AN ACT concerning children.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act is
5 amended by changing Section 7.4 as follows:

6 (325 ILCS 5/7.4) (from Ch. 23, par. 2057.4)

7 Sec. 7.4. (a) The Department shall be capable of receiving
8 reports of suspected child abuse or neglect 24 hours a day, 7
9 days a week. Whenever the Department receives a report alleging
10 that a child is a truant as defined in Section 26-2a of The
11 School Code, as now or hereafter amended, the Department shall
12 notify the superintendent of the school district in which the
13 child resides and the appropriate superintendent of the
14 educational service region. The notification to the
15 appropriate officials by the Department shall not be considered
16 an allegation of abuse or neglect under this Act.

17 (a-5) ~~The Beginning January 1, 2010, the~~ Department of
18 Children and Family Services may implement ~~a 5-year~~
19 ~~demonstration~~ of a "differential response program" in
20 accordance with criteria, standards, and procedures prescribed
21 by rule. The program may provide that, upon receiving a report,
22 the Department shall determine whether to conduct a family
23 assessment or an investigation as appropriate to prevent or

1 provide a remedy for child abuse or neglect.

2 For purposes of this subsection (a-5), "family assessment"
3 means a comprehensive assessment of child safety, risk of
4 subsequent child maltreatment, and family strengths and needs
5 that is applied to a child maltreatment report that does not
6 allege substantial child endangerment. "Family assessment"
7 does not include a determination as to whether child
8 maltreatment occurred but does determine the need for services
9 to address the safety of family members and the risk of
10 subsequent maltreatment.

11 For purposes of this subsection (a-5), "investigation"
12 means fact-gathering related to the current safety of a child
13 and the risk of subsequent abuse or neglect that determines
14 whether a report of suspected child abuse or neglect should be
15 indicated or unfounded and whether child protective services
16 are needed.

17 Under the "differential response program" implemented
18 under this subsection (a-5), the Department:

19 (1) Shall conduct an investigation on reports
20 involving substantial child abuse or neglect.

21 (2) Shall begin an immediate investigation if, at any
22 time when it is using a family assessment response, it
23 determines that there is reason to believe that substantial
24 child abuse or neglect or a serious threat to the child's
25 safety exists.

26 (3) May conduct a family assessment for reports that do

1 not allege substantial child endangerment. In determining
2 that a family assessment is appropriate, the Department may
3 consider issues including, but not limited to, child
4 safety, parental cooperation, and the need for an immediate
5 response.

6 (4) Shall promulgate criteria, standards, and
7 procedures that shall be applied in making this
8 determination, taking into consideration the Child
9 Endangerment Risk Assessment Protocol of the Department.

10 (5) May conduct a family assessment on a report that
11 was initially screened and assigned for an investigation.

12 In determining that a complete investigation is not
13 required, the Department must document the reason for
14 terminating the investigation and notify the local law
15 enforcement agency or the Department of State Police if the
16 local law enforcement agency or Department of State Police is
17 conducting a joint investigation.

18 Once it is determined that a "family assessment" will be
19 implemented, the case shall not be reported to the central
20 register of abuse and neglect reports.

21 During a family assessment, the Department shall collect
22 any available and relevant information to determine child
23 safety, risk of subsequent abuse or neglect, and family
24 strengths.

25 Information collected includes, but is not limited to, when
26 relevant: information with regard to the person reporting the

1 alleged abuse or neglect, including the nature of the
2 reporter's relationship to the child and to the alleged
3 offender, and the basis of the reporter's knowledge for the
4 report; the child allegedly being abused or neglected; the
5 alleged offender; the child's caretaker; and other collateral
6 sources having relevant information related to the alleged
7 abuse or neglect. Information relevant to the assessment must
8 be asked for, and may include:

9 (A) The child's sex and age, prior reports of abuse or
10 neglect, information relating to developmental
11 functioning, credibility of the child's statement, and
12 whether the information provided under this paragraph (A)
13 is consistent with other information collected during the
14 course of the assessment or investigation.

15 (B) The alleged offender's age, a record check for
16 prior reports of abuse or neglect, and criminal charges and
17 convictions. The alleged offender may submit supporting
18 documentation relevant to the assessment.

19 (C) Collateral source information regarding the
20 alleged abuse or neglect and care of the child. Collateral
21 information includes, when relevant: (i) a medical
22 examination of the child; (ii) prior medical records
23 relating to the alleged maltreatment or care of the child
24 maintained by any facility, clinic, or health care
25 professional, and an interview with the treating
26 professionals; and (iii) interviews with the child's

1 caretakers, including the child's parent, guardian, foster
2 parent, child care provider, teachers, counselors, family
3 members, relatives, and other persons who may have
4 knowledge regarding the alleged maltreatment and the care
5 of the child.

6 (D) Information on the existence of domestic abuse and
7 violence in the home of the child, and substance abuse.

8 Nothing in this subsection (a-5) precludes the Department
9 from collecting other relevant information necessary to
10 conduct the assessment or investigation. Nothing in this
11 subsection (a-5) shall be construed to allow the name or
12 identity of a reporter to be disclosed in violation of the
13 protections afforded under Section 7.19 of this Act.

14 After conducting the family assessment, the Department
15 shall determine whether services are needed to address the
16 safety of the child and other family members and the risk of
17 subsequent abuse or neglect.

18 Upon completion of the family assessment, if the Department
19 concludes that no services shall be offered, then the case
20 shall be closed. If the Department concludes that services
21 shall be offered, the Department shall develop a family
22 preservation plan and offer or refer services to the family.

23 At any time during a family assessment, if the Department
24 believes there is any reason to stop the assessment and conduct
25 an investigation based on the information discovered, the
26 Department shall do so.

1 The procedures available to the Department in conducting
2 investigations under this Act shall be followed as appropriate
3 during a family assessment.

4 If the Department implements a differential response
5 program authorized under this subsection (a-5), the Department
6 shall arrange for an independent evaluation of the program for
7 at least the first 3 years of implementation to determine
8 whether it is meeting the goals in accordance with Section 2 of
9 this Act.

10 ~~The Department shall arrange for an independent evaluation~~
11 ~~of the "differential response program" authorized and~~
12 ~~implemented under this subsection (a-5) to determine whether it~~
13 ~~is meeting the goals in accordance with Section 2 of this Act.~~

14 The Department may adopt administrative rules necessary for the
15 execution of this Section, in accordance with Section 4 of the
16 Children and Family Services Act.

17 The Department shall submit a report to the General
18 Assembly by January 15, 2018 on the implementation progress and
19 recommendations for additional needed legislative changes.

20 ~~The demonstration conducted under this subsection (a-5)~~
21 ~~shall become a permanent program on July 1, 2016, upon~~
22 ~~completion of the demonstration project period.~~

23 (b) (1) The following procedures shall be followed in the
24 investigation of all reports of suspected abuse or neglect of a
25 child, except as provided in subsection (c) of this Section.

26 (2) If, during a family assessment authorized by subsection

1 (a-5) or an investigation, it appears that the immediate safety
2 or well-being of a child is endangered, that the family may
3 flee or the child disappear, or that the facts otherwise so
4 warrant, the Child Protective Service Unit shall commence an
5 investigation immediately, regardless of the time of day or
6 night. All other investigations shall be commenced within 24
7 hours of receipt of the report. Upon receipt of a report, the
8 Child Protective Service Unit shall conduct a family assessment
9 authorized by subsection (a-5) or begin an initial
10 investigation and make an initial determination whether the
11 report is a good faith indication of alleged child abuse or
12 neglect.

13 (3) Based on an initial investigation, if the Unit
14 determines the report is a good faith indication of alleged
15 child abuse or neglect, then a formal investigation shall
16 commence and, pursuant to Section 7.12 of this Act, may or may
17 not result in an indicated report. The formal investigation
18 shall include: direct contact with the subject or subjects of
19 the report as soon as possible after the report is received; an
20 evaluation of the environment of the child named in the report
21 and any other children in the same environment; a determination
22 of the risk to such children if they continue to remain in the
23 existing environments, as well as a determination of the
24 nature, extent and cause of any condition enumerated in such
25 report; the name, age and condition of other children in the
26 environment; and an evaluation as to whether there would be an

1 immediate and urgent necessity to remove the child from the
2 environment if appropriate family preservation services were
3 provided. After seeing to the safety of the child or children,
4 the Department shall forthwith notify the subjects of the
5 report in writing, of the existence of the report and their
6 rights existing under this Act in regard to amendment or
7 expungement. To fulfill the requirements of this Section, the
8 Child Protective Service Unit shall have the capability of
9 providing or arranging for comprehensive emergency services to
10 children and families at all times of the day or night.

11 (4) If (i) at the conclusion of the Unit's initial
12 investigation of a report, the Unit determines the report to be
13 a good faith indication of alleged child abuse or neglect that
14 warrants a formal investigation by the Unit, the Department,
15 any law enforcement agency or any other responsible agency and
16 (ii) the person who is alleged to have caused the abuse or
17 neglect is employed or otherwise engaged in an activity
18 resulting in frequent contact with children and the alleged
19 abuse or neglect are in the course of such employment or
20 activity, then the Department shall, except in investigations
21 where the Director determines that such notification would be
22 detrimental to the Department's investigation, inform the
23 appropriate supervisor or administrator of that employment or
24 activity that the Unit has commenced a formal investigation
25 pursuant to this Act, which may or may not result in an
26 indicated report. The Department shall also notify the person

1 being investigated, unless the Director determines that such
2 notification would be detrimental to the Department's
3 investigation.

4 (c) In an investigation of a report of suspected abuse or
5 neglect of a child by a school employee at a school or on
6 school grounds, the Department shall make reasonable efforts to
7 follow the following procedures:

8 (1) Investigations involving teachers shall not, to
9 the extent possible, be conducted when the teacher is
10 scheduled to conduct classes. Investigations involving
11 other school employees shall be conducted so as to minimize
12 disruption of the school day. The school employee accused
13 of child abuse or neglect may have his superior, his
14 association or union representative and his attorney
15 present at any interview or meeting at which the teacher or
16 administrator is present. The accused school employee
17 shall be informed by a representative of the Department, at
18 any interview or meeting, of the accused school employee's
19 due process rights and of the steps in the investigation
20 process. The information shall include, but need not
21 necessarily be limited to the right, subject to the
22 approval of the Department, of the school employee to
23 confront the accuser, if the accuser is 14 years of age or
24 older, or the right to review the specific allegations
25 which gave rise to the investigation, and the right to
26 review all materials and evidence that have been submitted

1 to the Department in support of the allegation. These due
2 process rights shall also include the right of the school
3 employee to present countervailing evidence regarding the
4 accusations.

5 (2) If a report of neglect or abuse of a child by a
6 teacher or administrator does not involve allegations of
7 sexual abuse or extreme physical abuse, the Child
8 Protective Service Unit shall make reasonable efforts to
9 conduct the initial investigation in coordination with the
10 employee's supervisor.

11 If the Unit determines that the report is a good faith
12 indication of potential child abuse or neglect, it shall
13 then commence a formal investigation under paragraph (3) of
14 subsection (b) of this Section.

15 (3) If a report of neglect or abuse of a child by a
16 teacher or administrator involves an allegation of sexual
17 abuse or extreme physical abuse, the Child Protective Unit
18 shall commence an investigation under paragraph (2) of
19 subsection (b) of this Section.

20 (c-5) In any instance in which a report is made or caused
21 to made by a school district employee involving the conduct of
22 a person employed by the school district, at the time the
23 report was made, as required under Section 4 of this Act, the
24 Child Protective Service Unit shall send a copy of its final
25 finding report to the general superintendent of that school
26 district.

1 (d) If the Department has contact with an employer, or with
2 a religious institution or religious official having
3 supervisory or hierarchical authority over a member of the
4 clergy accused of the abuse of a child, in the course of its
5 investigation, the Department shall notify the employer or the
6 religious institution or religious official, in writing, when a
7 report is unfounded so that any record of the investigation can
8 be expunged from the employee's or member of the clergy's
9 personnel or other records. The Department shall also notify
10 the employee or the member of the clergy, in writing, that
11 notification has been sent to the employer or to the
12 appropriate religious institution or religious official
13 informing the employer or religious institution or religious
14 official that the Department's investigation has resulted in an
15 unfounded report.

16 (e) Upon request by the Department, the Department of State
17 Police and law enforcement agencies are authorized to provide
18 criminal history record information as defined in the Illinois
19 Uniform Conviction Information Act and information maintained
20 in the adjudicatory and dispositional record system as defined
21 in Section 2605-355 of the Department of State Police Law (20
22 ILCS 2605/2605-355) to properly designated employees of the
23 Department of Children and Family Services if the Department
24 determines the information is necessary to perform its duties
25 under the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act, the Child
26 Care Act of 1969, and the Children and Family Services Act. The

1 request shall be in the form and manner required by the
2 Department of State Police. Any information obtained by the
3 Department of Children and Family Services under this Section
4 is confidential and may not be transmitted outside the
5 Department of Children and Family Services other than to a
6 court of competent jurisdiction or unless otherwise authorized
7 by law. Any employee of the Department of Children and Family
8 Services who transmits confidential information in violation
9 of this Section or causes the information to be transmitted in
10 violation of this Section is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor
11 unless the transmittal of the information is authorized by this
12 Section or otherwise authorized by law.

13 (f) For purposes of this Section "child abuse or neglect"
14 includes abuse or neglect of an adult resident as defined in
15 this Act.

16 (Source: P.A. 98-1141, eff. 12-30-14.)