

1 AN ACT concerning criminal law.

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

4 Section 5. The Bill of Rights for Children is amended by
5 adding Section 3.5 as follows:

6 (725 ILCS 115/3.5 new)

7 Sec. 3.5. Right to forensic interview with children's
8 advocacy center. Every child reported to the Department of
9 Children and Family Services or law enforcement to be a victim
10 of sexual assault or sexual abuse whose case is accepted by
11 either agency for investigation has the right to have that
12 child's forensic interview conducted by a forensic interviewer
13 from a children's advocacy center accredited according to the
14 Children's Advocacy Center Act and serving the child's area or
15 jurisdiction where the incident(s) occurred, when such service
16 is accessible based on the CAC's available resources. This
17 right may be asserted by the child or the child's parent or
18 guardian informing the investigating personnel at the
19 Department of Children and Family Services or the law
20 enforcement agency that the parent or guardian wants the child
21 to have the child's interview conducted by the children's
22 advocacy center. Each local CAC protocol will outline a
23 process to address situations in which it is deemed not

1 possible for a forensic interview to occur, to ensure a
2 trauma-informed response with follow up services from the CAC.

3 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January
4 1, 2022.