



## 99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2015 and 2016

HB2821

by Rep. Patricia R. Bellock

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

325 ILCS 5/7.4

from Ch. 23, par. 2057.4

Amends the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act. Provides that when a report involves a child with a developmental or cognitive disability or with a physical disability that impacts the child's ability to communicate, the Department of Children and Family Services' investigation team shall include a licensed clinical social worker and a speech-language pathologist who have experience, either in a clinical setting or as a therapist in an educational setting, in working with the child's specific disability to help assess the information received from the child. Provides that these persons shall be directly involved in preparing for the investigation by building awareness of the child's communication needs, including the use of assistive technology, and reading abilities, assessing whether a reduced number of or shortened interviews are warranted, and determining the appropriate environment for interviewing the child. Provides that if a forensic interview is to be conducted, the Department shall ensure that the interviewer is trained to interview individuals with disabilities or is accompanied by the Department's licensed clinical social worker and speech-language pathologist. Provides that the Department shall ensure that the interviewer has access to individualized information about the child's disability from personal records, family members or care providers, and others with relevant information prior to meeting the child. Effective immediately.

LRB099 06199 KTG 26258 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

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

1 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           The Department shall arrange for an independent evaluation  
5 of the "differential response program" authorized and  
6 implemented under this subsection (a-5) to determine whether it  
7 is meeting the goals in accordance with Section 2 of this Act.  
8 The Department may adopt administrative rules necessary for the  
9 execution of this Section, in accordance with Section 4 of the  
10 Children and Family Services Act.

11           The demonstration conducted under this subsection (a-5)  
12 shall become a permanent program on July 1, 2016, upon  
13 completion of the demonstration project period.

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

17           (2) If, during a family assessment authorized by subsection  
18 (a-5) or an investigation, it appears that the immediate safety  
19 or well-being of a child is endangered, that the family may  
20 flee or the child disappear, or that the facts otherwise so  
21 warrant, the Child Protective Service Unit shall commence an  
22 investigation immediately, regardless of the time of day or  
23 night. All other investigations shall be commenced within 24  
24 hours of receipt of the report. Upon receipt of a report, the  
25 Child Protective Service Unit shall conduct a family assessment  
26 authorized by subsection (a-5) or begin an initial

1 investigation and make an initial determination whether the  
2 report is a good faith indication of alleged child abuse or  
3 neglect.

4 (3) Based on an initial investigation, if the Unit  
5 determines the report is a good faith indication of alleged  
6 child abuse or neglect, then a formal investigation shall  
7 commence and, pursuant to Section 7.12 of this Act, may or may  
8 not result in an indicated report. The formal investigation  
9 shall include: direct contact with the subject or subjects of  
10 the report as soon as possible after the report is received; an  
11 evaluation of the environment of the child named in the report  
12 and any other children in the same environment; a determination  
13 of the risk to such children if they continue to remain in the  
14 existing environments, as well as a determination of the  
15 nature, extent and cause of any condition enumerated in such  
16 report; the name, age and condition of other children in the  
17 environment; and an evaluation as to whether there would be an  
18 immediate and urgent necessity to remove the child from the  
19 environment if appropriate family preservation services were  
20 provided. After seeing to the safety of the child or children,  
21 the Department shall forthwith notify the subjects of the  
22 report in writing, of the existence of the report and their  
23 rights existing under this Act in regard to amendment or  
24 expungement. To fulfill the requirements of this Section, the  
25 Child Protective Service Unit shall have the capability of  
26 providing or arranging for comprehensive emergency services to



1 children and families at all times of the day or night.

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

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

25 (1) Investigations involving teachers shall not, to  
26 the extent possible, be conducted when the teacher is

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

22 (2) If a report of neglect or abuse of a child by a  
23 teacher or administrator does not involve allegations of  
24 sexual abuse or extreme physical abuse, the Child  
25 Protective Service Unit shall make reasonable efforts to  
26 conduct the initial investigation in coordination with the

1 employee's supervisor.

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

6 (3) If a report of neglect or abuse of a child by a  
7 teacher or administrator involves an allegation of sexual  
8 abuse or extreme physical abuse, the Child Protective Unit  
9 shall commence an investigation under paragraph (2) of  
10 subsection (b) of this Section.

11 (c-5) In any instance in which a report is made or caused  
12 to made by a school district employee involving the conduct of  
13 a person employed by the school district, at the time the  
14 report was made, as required under Section 4 of this Act, the  
15 Child Protective Service Unit shall send a copy of its final  
16 finding report to the general superintendent of that school  
17 district.

18 (d) If the Department has contact with an employer, or with  
19 a religious institution or religious official having  
20 supervisory or hierarchical authority over a member of the  
21 clergy accused of the abuse of a child, in the course of its  
22 investigation, the Department shall notify the employer or the  
23 religious institution or religious official, in writing, when a  
24 report is unfounded so that any record of the investigation can  
25 be expunged from the employee's or member of the clergy's  
26 personnel or other records. The Department shall also notify

1 the employee or the member of the clergy, in writing, that  
2 notification has been sent to the employer or to the  
3 appropriate religious institution or religious official  
4 informing the employer or religious institution or religious  
5 official that the Department's investigation has resulted in an  
6 unfounded report.

7 (e) Upon request by the Department, the Department of State  
8 Police and law enforcement agencies are authorized to provide  
9 criminal history record information as defined in the Illinois  
10 Uniform Conviction Information Act and information maintained  
11 in the adjudicatory and dispositional record system as defined  
12 in Section 2605-355 of the Department of State Police Law (20  
13 ILCS 2605/2605-355) to properly designated employees of the  
14 Department of Children and Family Services if the Department  
15 determines the information is necessary to perform its duties  
16 under the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act, the Child  
17 Care Act of 1969, and the Children and Family Services Act. The  
18 request shall be in the form and manner required by the  
19 Department of State Police. Any information obtained by the  
20 Department of Children and Family Services under this Section  
21 is confidential and may not be transmitted outside the  
22 Department of Children and Family Services other than to a  
23 court of competent jurisdiction or unless otherwise authorized  
24 by law. Any employee of the Department of Children and Family  
25 Services who transmits confidential information in violation  
26 of this Section or causes the information to be transmitted in

1 violation of this Section is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor  
2 unless the transmittal of the information is authorized by this  
3 Section or otherwise authorized by law.

4 (f) For purposes of this Section "child abuse or neglect"  
5 includes abuse or neglect of an adult resident as defined in  
6 this Act.

7 (g) When a report involves a child with a developmental or  
8 cognitive disability or with a physical disability that impacts  
9 the child's ability to communicate, the Department's  
10 investigation team shall include a licensed clinical social  
11 worker and a speech-language pathologist who have experience,  
12 either in a clinical setting or as a therapist in an  
13 educational setting, in working with the child's specific  
14 disability to help assess the information received from the  
15 child. These persons shall be directly involved in preparing  
16 for the investigation by building awareness of the child's  
17 communication needs, including the use of assistive  
18 technology, and reading abilities, assessing whether a reduced  
19 number of or shortened interviews are warranted, and  
20 determining the appropriate environment for interviewing the  
21 child. If a forensic interview is to be conducted, the  
22 Department shall ensure that the interviewer is trained to  
23 interview individuals with disabilities or is accompanied by  
24 the Department's licensed clinical social worker and  
25 speech-language pathologist, and the Department shall ensure  
26 that the interviewer has access to individualized information

1 about the child's disability from personal records, family  
2 members or care providers, and others with relevant information  
3 prior to meeting the child.

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

5 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
6 becoming law.