
Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act

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Title: An Act creating the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act and repealing and amending other Acts.

Cite: 325 ILCS 5/1 et seq.

(Source: P.A. 79-65.)

Date: Approved June 26, 1975.

Short title: Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

(325 ILCS 5/1)

Sec. 1. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

(Source: P.A. 79-65.)

(325 ILCS 5/2)

Sec. 2. The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services shall, upon receiving reports made under this Act, protect the health, safety, and best interests of the child in all situations in which the child is vulnerable to child abuse or neglect, offer protective services in order to prevent any further harm to the child and to other children in the same environment or family, stabilize the home environment, and preserve family life whenever possible. Recognizing that children also can be abused and neglected while living in public or private residential agencies or institutions meant to serve them, while attending day care centers, schools, or religious activities, or when in contact with adults who are responsible for the welfare of the child at that time, this Act also provides for the reporting and investigation of child abuse and neglect in such instances. In performing any of these duties, the Department may utilize such protective services of voluntary agencies as are available.

(Source: P.A. 90-28, eff. 1-1-98; P.A. 92-801, eff. 8-16-02.)

(325 ILCS 5/2.1)

Sec. 2.1. Any person or family seeking assistance in meeting childcare responsibilities may use the services and facilities established by this Act which may assist in meeting such responsibilities. Whether or not the problem presented constitutes child abuse or neglect, such persons or families shall be referred to appropriate resources or agencies. No person seeking assistance under this Section shall be required to give his name or any other identifying information.

(Source: P.A. 81-1077.)

(325 ILCS 5/3)

Sec. 3. As used in this Act unless the context otherwise requires:

“Child” means any person under the age of 18 years, unless legally emancipated by reason of marriage or entry into a branch of the United States armed services.

“Department” means Department of Children and Family Services.

“Local law enforcement agency” means the police of a city, town, village or other incorporated area or the sheriff of an unincorporated area or any sworn officer of the Illinois Department of State Police.

“Abused child” means a child whose parent or immediate family member, or any person responsible for the child’s welfare, or any individual residing in the same home as the child, or a paramour of the child’s parent:

- (a) inflicts, causes to be inflicted, or allows to be inflicted upon such child physical injury, by other than accidental means, which causes death, disfigurement, impairment

of physical or emotional health, or loss or impairment of any bodily function;

- (b) creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such child by other than accidental means which would be likely to cause death, disfigurement, impairment of physical or emotional health, or loss or impairment of any bodily function;
- (c) commits or allows to be committed any sex offense against such child, as such sex offenses are defined in the Criminal Code of 1961, as amended, and extending those definitions of sex offenses to include children under 18 years of age;
- (d) commits or allows to be committed an act or acts of torture upon such child;
- (e) inflicts excessive corporal punishment;
- (f) commits or allows to be committed the offense of female genital mutilation, as defined in Section 12-34 of the Criminal Code of 1961, against the child; or
- (g) causes to be sold, transferred, distributed, or given to such child under 18 years of age, a controlled substance as defined in Section 102 of the Illinois Controlled Substances Act in violation of Article IV of the Illinois Controlled Substances Act or in violation of the Methamphetamine Control and Community Protection Act, except for controlled substances that are prescribed in accordance with Article III of the Illinois Controlled Substances Act and are dispensed to such child in a manner that substantially complies with the prescription.

A child shall not be considered abused for the sole reason that the child has been relinquished in accordance with the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act.

“Neglected child” means any child who is not receiving the proper or necessary nourishment or medically indicated treatment including food or care not provided solely on the basis of the present or anticipated mental or physical impairment as determined by a physician acting alone or in consultation with other physicians or otherwise is not receiving the proper or necessary support or medical or other remedial care recognized under State law as necessary for a child’s well-being, or other care necessary for his or her well-being, including adequate food, clothing and shelter; or who is abandoned by his or her parents or other person responsible for the child’s welfare without a proper plan of care; or who has been provided with interim crisis intervention services under Section 3-5 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 and whose parents, guardian, or custodian refuses to permit the child to return home and no other living arrangement agreeable to the parent, guardian, or custodian can be made, and the parent, guardian, or custodian has not made any other appropriate living arrangement for the child; or who is a newborn infant whose blood, urine, or meconium contains any amount of a controlled substance as defined in subsection (f) of Section 102 of the Illinois Controlled Substances Act or a metabolite thereof, with the exception of a controlled substance or metabolite thereof whose presence in the newborn infant is the result of medical treatment administered to the mother or the newborn infant. A child shall not be considered neglected for the sole reason that the child’s parent or other person responsible for his or her welfare has left the child in the care of an adult relative for any period of time. A child shall not be considered neglected for the sole reason that the child has been relinquished in accordance with the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act. A child shall

not be considered neglected or abused for the sole reason that such child's parent or other person responsible for his or her welfare depends upon spiritual means through prayer alone for the treatment or cure of disease or remedial care as provided under Section 4 of this Act. A child shall not be considered neglected or abused solely because the child is not attending school in accordance with the requirements of Article 26 of The School Code, as amended.

"Child Protective Service Unit" means certain specialized State employees of the Department assigned by the Director to perform the duties and responsibilities as provided under Section 7.2 of this Act.

"Person responsible for the child's welfare" means the child's parent; guardian; foster parent; relative caregiver; any person responsible for the child's welfare in a public or private residential agency or institution; any person responsible for the child's welfare within a public or private profit or not for profit child care facility; or any other person responsible for the child's welfare at the time of the alleged abuse or neglect, or any person who came to know the child through an official capacity or position of trust, including but not limited to health care professionals, educational personnel, recreational supervisors, members of the clergy, and volunteers or support personnel in any setting where children may be subject to abuse or neglect.

"Temporary protective custody" means custody within a hospital or other medical facility or a place previously designated for such custody by the Department, subject to review by the Court, including a licensed foster home, group home, or other institution; but such place shall not be a jail or other place for the detention of criminal or juvenile offenders.

"An unfounded report" means any report made under this Act for which it is determined after an investigation that no credible evidence of abuse or neglect exists.

"An indicated report" means a report made under this Act if an investigation determines that credible evidence of the alleged abuse or neglect exists.

"An undetermined report" means any report made under this Act in which it was not possible to initiate or complete an investigation on the basis of information provided to the Department.

"Subject of report" means any child reported to the central register of child abuse and neglect established under Section 7.7 of this Act and his or her parent, guardian or other person responsible who is also named in the report.

"Perpetrator" means a person who, as a result of investigation, has been determined by the Department to have caused child abuse or neglect.

"Member of the clergy" means a clergyman or practitioner of any religious denomination accredited by the religious body to which he or she belongs.

(Source: P.A. 91-802, eff. 1-1-01; 92-408, eff. 8-17-01; 92-432, eff. 8-17-01; P.A. 92-801, eff. 8-16-02; PA 94-556 eff. 9-11-05; P.A. 95-443 eff 1-1-08.)

(325 ILCS 5/4)

Sec. 4. Persons required to report; privileged communications; transmitting false report.

Any physician, resident, intern, hospital, hospital administrator and personnel engaged in examination, care and treatment of persons, surgeon, dentist, dentist hygienist, osteopath, chiropractor, podiatrist, physician assistant, substance abuse treatment personnel, funeral home director or employee, coroner, medical examiner, emergency medical technician, acupuncturist, crisis line or hotline personnel, school personnel (including administrators and both certified and non-certified school employees), educational advocate assigned to a child pursuant to the School Code, member of a school board or the Chicago Board of Education or the governing body of a private school (but

only to the extent required in accordance with other provisions of this Section expressly concerning the duty of school board members to report suspected child abuse), truant officers, social worker, social services administrator, domestic violence program personnel, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, genetic counselor, respiratory care practitioner, advanced practice nurse, home health aide, director or staff assistant of a nursery school or a child day care center, recreational program or facility personnel, law enforcement officer, licensed professional counselor, licensed clinical professional counselor, registered psychologist and assistants working under the direct supervision of a psychologist, psychiatrist, or field personnel of the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, Juvenile Justice, Public Health, Human Services (acting as successor to the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, Rehabilitation Services, or Public Aid), Corrections, Human Rights, or Children and Family Services, supervisor and administrator of general assistance under the Illinois Public Aid Code, probation officer, or any other foster parent, homemaker or child care worker having reasonable cause to believe a child known to them in their professional or official capacity may be an abused child or a neglected child shall immediately report or cause a report to be made to the Department.

Any member of the clergy having reasonable cause to believe that a child known to that member of the clergy in his or her professional capacity may be an abused child as defined in item (c) of the definition of "abused child" in Section 3 of this Act shall immediately report or cause a report to be made to the Department.

If an allegation is raised to a school board member during the course of an open or closed school board meeting that a child who is enrolled in the school district of which he or she is a board member is an abused child as defined in Section 3 of this Act, the member shall direct or cause the school board to direct the superintendent of the school district or other equivalent school administrator to comply with the requirements of this Act concerning the reporting of child abuse. For purposes of this paragraph, a school board member is granted the authority in his or her individual capacity to direct the superintendent of the school district or other equivalent school administrator to comply with the requirements of this Act concerning the reporting of child abuse.

Whenever such person is required to report under this Act in his capacity as a member of the staff of a medical or other public or private institution, school, facility or agency, or as a member of the clergy, he shall make report immediately to the Department in accordance with the provisions of this Act and may also notify the person in charge of such institution, school, facility or agency, or church, synagogue, temple, mosque, or other religious institution, or his designated agent that such report has been made. Under no circumstances shall any person in charge of such institution, school, facility or agency, or church, synagogue, temple, mosque, or other religious institution, or his designated agent to whom such notification has been made, exercise any control, restraint, modification or other change in the report or the forwarding of such report to the Department.

The privileged quality of communication between any professional person required to report and his patient or client shall not apply to situations involving abused or neglected children and shall not constitute grounds for failure to report as required by this Act.

A member of the clergy may claim the privilege under Section 8-803 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

In addition to the above persons required to report suspected cases of abused or neglected children, any other person may make a report if such person has reasonable cause to believe a child may be an abused child or a neglected child.

Any person who enters into employment on and after July 1, 1986 and is mandated by virtue of that employment to report under this Act, shall sign a statement on a form prescribed by the Department, to the effect that the employee has knowledge and understanding of the reporting requirements of this Act. The statement shall be signed prior to commencement of the employment. The signed statement shall be retained by the employer. The cost of printing, distribution, and filing of the statement shall be borne by the employer.

The Department shall provide copies of this Act, upon request, to all employers employing persons who shall be required under the provisions of this Section to report under this Act.

Any person who knowingly transmits a false report to the Department commits the offense of disorderly conduct under subsection (a)(7) of Section 26-1 of the "Criminal Code of 1961". Any person who violates this provision a second or subsequent time shall be guilty of a Class 3 felony.

Any person who knowingly and willfully violates any Provision of this Section other than a second or subsequent violation of transmitting a false report as described in the preceding paragraph, is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor for a first violation and a Class 4 felony for a second or subsequent violation; except that if the person acted as part of a plan or scheme having as its object the prevention of discovery of an abused or neglected child by lawful authorities for the purpose of protecting or insulating any person or entity from arrest or prosecution, the person is guilty of a Class 4 felony for a first offense and a Class 3 felony for a second or subsequent offense (regardless of whether the second or subsequent offense involves any of the same facts or persons as the first or other prior offense).

A child whose parent, guardian or custodian in good faith selects and depends upon spiritual means through prayer alone for the treatment or cure of disease or remedial care may be considered neglected or abused, but not for the sole reason that his parent, guardian or custodian accepts and practices such beliefs.

A child shall not be considered neglected or abused solely because the child is not attending school in accordance with the requirements of Article 26 of the School Code, as amended.

(Source: P.A. 91-259, eff. 1-1-00; 91-516, eff. 8-13 99; 92-16, eff. 6-28-01; P.A. 92-0801, eff. 8-16-02; 93-137, eff. 7-10-03; 93-356, eff. 7-24-03; 93-431, eff 8-5-03; 93-1041, eff. 9-29-04; 94-888 eff. 6-20-06; P.A. 95-10 eff. 6-30-2007; P.A. 95-461 eff 8-27-07.)

(325 ILCS 5/4.02)

Sec. 4.02. Any physician who willfully fails to report suspected child abuse or neglect as required by this Act shall be referred to the Illinois State Medical Disciplinary Board for action in accordance with paragraph 22 of Section 22 of the Medical Practice Act of 1987. Any dentist or dental hygienist who willfully fails to report suspected child abuse or neglect as required by this Act shall be referred to the Department of Professional Regulation for action in accordance with paragraph 19 of Section 23 of the Illinois Dental Practice Act. Any other person required by this Act to report suspected child abuse and neglect who willfully fails to report such is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor for a first violation and a Class 4 felony for a second or subsequent violation.

(Source: 91-197, eff. 1-1-00; PA 92-0801, eff. 8-16-02.)

(325 ILCS 5/4.1)

Sec. 4.1. Any person required to report under this Act who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has died as a result of abuse or neglect shall also immediately report his suspicion to the appropriate medical examiner or coroner. Any other person who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has died as a

result of abuse or neglect may report his suspicion to the appropriate medical examiner or coroner. The medical examiner or coroner shall investigate the report and communicate his apparent gross findings, orally, immediately upon completion of the gross autopsy, but in all cases within 72 hours and within 21 days in writing, to the local law enforcement agency, the appropriate State's attorney, the Department and, if the institution making the report is a hospital, the hospital. The child protective investigator assigned to the death investigation shall have the right to require a copy of the completed autopsy report from the coroner or medical examiner.

(Source: P.A. 85-193.)

(325 ILCS 5/4.2)

(Text of Section before amendment by P.A. 95-405)

Sec. 4.2. Departmental report on death of child.

- (a) In the case of the death of a child whose care and custody or custody and guardianship has been transferred to the Department, or in the case of a child abuse or neglect report made to the central register involving the death of a child, the Department shall (i) investigate or provide for an investigation of the cause of and circumstances surrounding the death, (ii) review the investigation, and (iii) prepare and issue a report on the death.
- (b) The report shall include (i) the cause of death, whether from natural or other causes, (ii) identification of child protective or other services provided or actions taken regarding the child and his or her family, (iii) any extraordinary or pertinent information concerning the circumstances of the child's death, (iv) whether the child or the child's family had received assistance, care, or services from the social services district prior to the child's death, (v) any action or further investigation undertaken by the Department since the death of the child, and (vi) as appropriate, recommendations for State administrative or policy changes.

The report shall contain no information that would identify the name of the deceased child, his or her siblings, the parent or other person legally responsible for the child, or any other members of the child's household, but shall refer instead to the case, which may be denoted in any fashion determined appropriate by the Department. In making a fatality report available to the public pursuant to subsection (c) of this Section, the Department may respond to a child specific request for a report if the Department determines that the disclosure is not contrary to the best interests of the deceased child's siblings or other children in the household. Except as it may apply directly to the cause of the death of the child, nothing in this Section shall be deemed to authorize the release or disclosure to the public of the substance or content of any psychological, psychiatric, therapeutic, clinical, or medical reports, evaluation, or like materials or information pertaining to the child or the child's family.

- (c) No later than 6 months after the date of the death of the child, the Department shall complete its report. The Department shall notify the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives in whose district the child's death occurred upon the completion of each report and shall submit an annual cumulative report to the Governor and the General Assembly incorporating the data in the above reports and including appropriate findings and recommendations. The reports concerning the death of a child and the cumulative reports shall be made available to the public after completion or submittal.

- (d) To enable the Department to prepare the report, the Department may request and shall timely receive from departments, boards, bureaus, or other agencies of the State, or any of its political subdivisions, or any duly authorized agency, or any other agency which provided assistance, care, or services to the deceased child any information they are authorized to provide.

(Source: P.A. 90-15, eff. 6-13-97.)

(Text of Section after amendment by P.A. 95-405)

Sec. 4.2. Departmental report on death or serious life-threatening injury of child.

- (a) In the case of the death or serious life-threatening injury of a child whose care and custody or custody and guardianship has been transferred to the Department, or in the case of a child abuse or neglect report made to the central register involving the death of a child, the Department shall (i) investigate or provide for an investigation of the cause of and circumstances surrounding the death or serious life-threatening injury, (ii) review the investigation, and (iii) prepare and issue a report on the death or serious life-threatening injury.
- (b) The report shall include (i) the cause of death or serious life-threatening injury, whether from natural or other causes, (ii) identification of child protective or other services provided or actions taken regarding the child and his or her family, (iii) any extraordinary or pertinent information concerning the circumstances of the child's death or serious life-threatening injury, (iii) identification of child protective or other social services provided or actions taken regarding the child or his or her family at the time of the death or serious life-threatening injury or within the preceding 5 years, (iv) whether the child or the child's family had received assistance, care, or services from the social services district prior to the child's death, (v) any action or further investigation undertaken by the Department since the death or life-threatening injury of the child, (v) and (vi) as appropriate, recommendations for State administrative or policy changes, and (vi) whether the alleged perpetrator of the abuse or neglect has been charged with committing a crime related to the report and allegation of abuse or neglect. In any case involving the death or near death of a child, when a person responsible for the child has been charged with committing a crime that results in the child's death or near death, there shall be a presumption that the best interest of the public will be served by public disclosure of certain information concerning the circumstances of the investigations of the death or near death of the child and any other investigations concerning that child or other children living in the same household.

If the Department receives from the public a request for information relating to a case of child abuse or neglect involving the death or serious life-threatening injury of a child, the Director shall consult with the State's Attorney in the county of venue and release the report related to the case, except for the following, which may be redacted from the information disclosed to the public: any mental health or psychological information that is confidential as otherwise provided in State law; privileged communications of an attorney; the identity of the individual or individuals, if known, who made the report; information that may cause mental or physical harm to a sibling or another child living in the household; information that may undermine an ongoing criminal investigation; and information prohibited for disclosure by federal law or regulation. Any information provided by an adult subject of a report that is released about the case in a public forum shall be subject to disclosure upon a public information request. Information

about the case shall also be subject to disclosure upon consent of a adult subject. Information about the case shall also be subject to disclosure if it has been publicly disclosed in a report by a law enforcement agency or official, a State's Attorney, a judge, or any other State of local investigative agency or official.

~~The report shall contain no information that would identify the name of the deceased child, his or her siblings, the parent or other person legally responsible for the child, or any other members of the child's household, but shall refer instead to the case, which may be denoted in any fashion determined appropriate by the Department. In making a fatality report available to the public pursuant to subsection (c) of this Section, the Department may respond to a child specific request for a report if the Department determines that the disclosure is not contrary to the best interests of the deceased child's siblings or other children in the household. Except as it may apply directly to the cause of the death or serious life-threatening injury of the child, nothing in this Section shall be deemed to authorize the release or disclosure to the public of the substance or content of any psychological, psychiatric, therapeutic, clinical, or medical reports, evaluation, or like materials or information pertaining to the child or the child's family.~~

- (c) No later than 6 months after the date of the death or serious life-threatening injury of the child, the Department shall complete its report. The Department shall notify the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives in whose district the child's death or serious life-threatening injury occurred upon the completion of each report and shall submit an annual cumulative report to the Governor and the General Assembly incorporating cumulative the data above in the above reports and including appropriate findings and recommendations. The reports required by this subsection (c) concerning the death of a child and the cumulative reports shall be made available to the public after completion or submittal.
- (d) To enable the Department to prepare the report, the Department may request and shall timely receive from departments, boards, bureaus, or other agencies of the State, or any of its political subdivisions, or any duly authorized agency, or any other agency which provided assistance, care, or services to the deceased or injured child any information they are authorized to provide.

(Source: P.A. 90-15, eff. 6-13-97; P.A. 95-405, eff. 6-1-08.)

(325 ILCS 5/4.3)

Sec. 4.3. DCFS duty to report.

The Department shall report the disappearance of any child under its custody or guardianship to the local law enforcement agency working in cooperation with the I SEARCH Unit located nearest the last known whereabouts of the child.

(Source: P.A. 90-27, eff. 1-1-98.)

(325 ILCS 5/4.4)

Sec 4.4. DCFS duty to report to State's Attorney. Whenever the Department receives, by means of its statewide toll-free telephone number established under Section 7.6 for the purpose of reporting suspected child abuse or neglect or by any other means or from any mandated reporter under Section 4, a report of a newborn infant whose blood, urine, or meconium contains any amount of a controlled substance as defined in subsection (f) of Section 102 of the Illinois Controlled Substance Act or a metabolite thereof, with the exception of a controlled substance or metabolite thereof whose presence in the newborn infant is the

result of medical treatment administered to the mother or the newborn infant, the Department must immediately report that information to the State's Attorney of the county in which the infant was born.
(Source: P.A. 95-0361, eff. 8-23-07.)

(325 ILCS 5/5)

Sec. 5. An officer of a local law enforcement agency, designated employee of the Department, or a physician treating a child may take or retain temporary protective custody of the child without the consent of the person responsible for the child's welfare, if (1) he has reason to believe that the child cannot be cared for at home or in the custody of the person responsible for the child's welfare without endangering the child's health or safety; and (2) there is not time to apply for a court order under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 for temporary custody of the child. The person taking or retaining a child in temporary protective custody shall immediately make every reasonable effort to notify the person responsible for the child's welfare and shall immediately notify the Department. The Department shall provide to the temporary caretaker of a child any information in the Department's possession concerning the positive results of a test performed on the child to determine the presence of the antibody or antigen to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), or of HIV infection, as well as any communicable diseases or communicable infections that the child has. The temporary caretaker of a child shall not disclose to another person any information received by the temporary caretaker from the Department concerning the results of a test performed on the child to determine the presence of the antibody or antigen to HIV, or of HIV infection, except pursuant to Section 9 of the AIDS Confidentiality Act, as now or hereafter amended. The Department shall promptly initiate proceedings under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 for the continued temporary custody of the child.

Where the physician keeping a child in his custody does so in his capacity as a member of the staff of a hospital or similar institution, he shall notify the person in charge of the institution or his designated agent, who shall then become responsible for the further care of such child in the hospital or similar institution under the direction of the Department.

Said care includes, but is not limited to the granting of permission to perform emergency medical treatment to a minor where the treatment itself does not involve a substantial risk of harm to the minor and the failure to render such treatment will likely result in death or permanent harm to the minor, and there is not time to apply for a court order under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987.

Any person authorized and acting in good faith in the removal of a child under this Section shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal that might otherwise be incurred or imposed as a result of such removal. Any physician authorized and acting in good faith and in accordance with acceptable medical practice in the treatment of a child under this Section shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed as a result of granting permission for emergency treatment.

With respect to any child taken into temporary protective custody pursuant to this Section, the Department of Children and Family Services Guardianship Administrator or his designee shall be deemed the child's legally authorized representative for purposes of consenting to an HIV test if deemed necessary and appropriate by the Department's Guardianship Administrator or designee and obtaining and disclosing information concerning such test pursuant to the AIDS Confidentiality Act if deemed necessary and appropriate by the Department's Guardianship Administrator or designee and for purposes of consenting to the release of information pursuant to the Illinois Sexually Transmissible Disease Control Act if deemed necessary and

appropriate by the Department's Guardianship Administrator or designee.

Any person who administers an HIV test upon the consent of the Department of Children and Family Services Guardianship Administrator or his designee, or who discloses the results of such tests to the Department's Guardianship Administrator or his designee, shall have immunity from any liability, civil, criminal or otherwise, that might result by reason of such actions. For the purpose of any proceedings, civil or criminal, the good faith of any persons required to administer or disclose the results of tests, or permitted to take such actions, shall be presumed.
(Source: P.A. 90-28, eff. 1-1-98.)

(325 ILCS 5/6)

Sec. 6. Any person required to investigate cases of suspected child abuse or neglect may take or cause to be taken, at Department expense, color photographs and x-rays of the child who is the subject of a report, and color photographs of the physical environment in which the alleged abuse or neglect has taken place. The person seeking to take such photographs or x-rays shall make every reasonable effort to notify the person responsible for the child's welfare.
(Source: P.A. 84-611.)

(325 ILCS 5/7)

Sec. 7. Time and manner of making reports.

All reports of suspected child abuse or neglect made under this Act shall be made immediately by telephone to the central register established under Section 7.7 on the single, State-wide, toll-free telephone number established in Section 7.6, or in person or by telephone through the nearest Department office. The Department shall, in cooperation with school officials, distribute appropriate materials in school buildings listing the toll-free telephone number established in Section 7.6, including methods of making a report under this Act. The Department may, in cooperation with appropriate members of the clergy, distribute appropriate materials in churches, synagogues, temples, mosques, or other religious buildings listing the toll-free telephone number established in Section 7.6, including methods of making a report under this Act.

Wherever the Statewide number is posted, there shall also be posted the following notice:

"Any person who knowingly transmits a false report to the Department commits the offense of disorderly conduct under subsection (a)(7) of Section 26-1 of the Criminal Code of 1961. A first violation of this subsection is a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by a term of imprisonment for up to one year, or by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, or by both such term and fine. A second or subsequent violation is a Class 4 felony."

The report required by this Act shall include, if known, the name and address of the child and his parents or other persons having his custody; the child's age; the nature of the child's condition including any evidence of previous injuries or disabilities; and any other information that the person filing the report believes might be helpful in establishing the cause of such abuse or neglect. Reports made to the central register through the State-wide, toll-free telephone number shall be immediately transmitted by the Department to the appropriate Child Protective Service Unit. All such reports alleging the death of a child, serious injury to a child including, but not limited to, brain damage, skull fractures, subdural hematomas, and internal injuries, torture of a child, malnutrition of a child, and sexual abuse to a child, including, but not limited to, sexual intercourse, sexual exploitation, sexual molestation, and sexually transmitted disease in a child age 12 and under, shall also be immediately transmitted by the Department to the appropriate local law enforcement agency. The Department shall within 24 hours orally notify local law enforcement personnel and the office of the

State's Attorney of the involved county of the receipt of any report alleging the death of a child, serious injury to a child including, but not limited to, brain damage, skull fractures, subdural hematomas, and, internal injuries, torture of a child, malnutrition of a child, and sexual abuse to a child, including, but not limited to, sexual intercourse, sexual exploitation, sexual molestation, and sexually transmitted disease in a child age twelve and under. All oral reports made by the Department to local law enforcement personnel and the office of the State's Attorney of the involved county shall be confirmed in writing within ~~48~~ 24 hours of the oral report. All reports by persons mandated to report under this Act shall be confirmed in writing to the appropriate Child Protective Service Unit, which may be on forms supplied by the Department, within 48 hours of any initial report.

Written confirmation reports from persons not required to report by this Act may be made to the appropriate Child Protective Service Unit. Written reports from persons required by this Act to report shall be admissible in evidence in any judicial proceeding relating to child abuse or neglect. Reports involving known or suspected child abuse or neglect in public or private residential agencies or institutions shall be made and received in the same manner as all other reports made under this Act. (Source: P.A. 92-801, eff 8-16-02; P.A. 95-0057, eff 8-10-2007.)

(325 ILCS 5/7.1)

Sec. 7.1.

(a) To the fullest extent feasible, the Department shall cooperate with and shall seek the cooperation and involvement of all appropriate public and private agencies, including health, education, social service and law enforcement agencies, religious institutions, courts of competent jurisdiction, and agencies, organizations, or programs providing or concerned with human services related to the prevention, identification or treatment of child abuse or neglect.

Such cooperation and involvement shall include joint consultation and services, joint planning, joint case management, joint public education and information services, joint utilization of facilities, joint staff development and other training, and the creation of multidisciplinary case diagnostic, case handling, case management, and policy planning teams. Such cooperation and involvement shall also include consultation and planning with the Illinois Department of Human Services regarding referrals to designated perinatal centers of newborn children requiring protective custody under this Act, whose life or development may be threatened by a developmental disability or handicapping condition.

For implementing such intergovernmental cooperation and involvement, units of local government and public and private agencies may apply for and receive federal or State funds from the Department under this Act or seek and receive gifts from local philanthropic or other private local sources in order to augment any State funds appropriated for the purposes of this Act

(b) The Department may establish up to 5 demonstrations of multidisciplinary teams to advise, review and monitor cases of child abuse and neglect brought by the Department or any member of the team. The Director shall determine the criteria by which certain cases of child abuse or neglect are brought to the multidisciplinary teams. The criteria shall include but not be limited to geographic area and classification of certain cases where allegations are of a severe nature. Each multidisciplinary team shall consist of 7 to 10 members appointed by the Director, including, but not limited to representatives from the medical, mental health, educational, juvenile justice, law enforcement and social service fields.

(Source: P.A. 89-507, eff. 7-1-97; 92-801, eff. 8-16-02.)

(325 ILCS 5/7.2)

Sec. 7.2. The Department shall establish a Child Protective Service Unit within each geographic region as designated by the Director of the Department. The Child Protective Service Unit shall perform those functions assigned by this Act to it and only such others that would further the purposes of this Act. It shall have a sufficient staff of qualified personnel to fulfill the purpose of this Act and be organized in such a way as to maximize the continuity of responsibility, care and service of the individual workers toward the individual children and families.

The Child Protective Service Unit shall designate members of each unit to receive specialty training to serve as special consultants to unit staff and the public in the areas of child sexual abuse, child deaths and injuries, and out-of-home investigations. (Source: P.A. 85-1440.)

(325 ILCS 5/7.3)

Sec. 7.3. (a) The Department shall be the sole agency responsible for receiving and investigating reports of child abuse or neglect made under this Act, except where investigations by other agencies may be required with respect to reports alleging the death of a child, serious injury to a child or sexual abuse to a child made pursuant to Sections 4.1 or 7 of this Act, and except that the Department may delegate the performance of the investigation to the Department of State Police, a law enforcement agency and to those private social service agencies which have been designated for this purpose by the Department prior to July 1, 1980.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Act, the Department shall adopt rules expressly allowing law enforcement personnel to investigate reports of suspected child abuse or neglect concurrently with the Department, without regard to whether the Department determines a report to be "indicated" or "unfounded" or deems a report to be "undetermined".

(Source: P.A. 85-1440; PA 95-0057, eff. 8-10-2007.)

(325 ILCS 5/7.3a)

Sec. 7.3a. The Director of the Department shall appoint a Perinatal Coordinator who shall be a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches with a specialty certification in pediatric care. Such coordinator, or other designated medical specialists, shall review all reports of suspected medical neglect involving newborns or infants, coordinate the evaluation of the subject of such report, and assist in necessary referrals to appropriate perinatal medical care and treatment. When the Perinatal Coordinator or other designated medical specialists, alone or in consultation with an infant care review committee established by a medical facility, determine that a newborn or infant child is being neglected as defined in Section 3 of this Act, a designated employee of the Department shall take the steps necessary to protect such newborn or infant child's life or health, including but not limited to taking temporary protective custody.

(Source: P.A. 83-1248.)

(325 ILCS 5/7.3b)

Sec. 7.3b. All persons required to report under Section 4 may refer to the Department of Human Services any pregnant person in this State who is addicted as defined in the Alcoholism and Other Drug Abuse and Dependency Act. The Department of Human Services shall notify the local Infant Mortality Reduction Network service provider or Department funded prenatal care provider in the area in which the person resides. The service provider shall prepare a case management plan and assist the pregnant woman in obtaining counseling and treatment from a local substance abuse service provider licensed by the Department of Human Services or a licensed hospital which provides substance abuse treatment services. The local Infant Mortality Reduction Network service provider and Department

funded prenatal care provider shall monitor the pregnant woman through the service program. The Department of Human Services shall have the authority to promulgate rules and regulations to implement this Section.
(Source: P.A. 88-670, eff. 12-2-94; 89-507 (Sections 9C-25 and 9M-5), eff. 7-1-97.)

(325 ILCS 5/7.3c)

Sec. 7.3c. Substance abuse services for women with children.

The Department of Human Services and the Department of Children and Family Services shall develop a community based system of integrated child welfare and substance abuse services for the purpose of providing safety and protection for children, improving adult health and parenting outcomes, and improving family outcomes.

The Department of Children and Family Services, in cooperation with the Department of Human Services, shall develop case management protocols for DCFS clients with substance abuse problems. The Departments may establish pilot programs designed to test the most effective approaches to case-management. The Departments shall evaluate the effectiveness of these pilot programs and report to the Governor and the General Assembly on an annual basis.

(Source: P.A. 89-268, eff. 1-1-96; 89-507, eff. 7-1-97.)

(325 ILCS 5/7.4)

Sec. 7.4.

- (a) The Department shall be capable of receiving reports of suspected child abuse or neglect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Whenever the Department receives a report alleging that a child is a truant as defined in Section 26-2a of The School Code, as now or hereafter amended, the Department shall notify the superintendent of the school district in which the child resides and the appropriate superintendent of the educational service region. The notification to the appropriate officials by the Department shall not be considered an allegation of abuse or neglect under this Act.
- (b) (1) The following procedures shall be followed in the investigation of all reports of suspected abuse or neglect of a child, except as provided in subsection (c) of this Section.
- (2) If it appears that the immediate safety or well-being of a child is endangered, that the family may flee or the child disappear, or that the facts otherwise so warrant, the Child Protective Service Unit shall commence an investigation immediately, regardless of the time of day or night. In all other cases, investigation shall be commenced within 24 hours of receipt of the report. Upon receipt of a report, the Child Protective Service Unit shall make an initial investigation and an initial determination whether the report is a good faith indication of alleged child abuse or neglect.
- (3) If the Unit determines the report is a good faith indication of alleged child abuse or neglect, then a formal investigation shall commence and, pursuant to Section 7.12 of this Act, may or may not result in an indicated report. The formal investigation shall include: direct contact with the subject or subjects of the report as soon as possible after the report is received; an evaluation of the environment of the child named in the report and any other children in the same environment; a determination of the risk to such children if they continue to remain in the existing environments, as well as a determination of the nature, extent and cause of any condition enumerated in such report; the name, age and condition of other children in the environment; and an evaluation as to whether there would be an immediate and urgent necessity to remove the child from the environment if appropriate family preservation services were provided. After seeing to the safety of the child or children, the Department shall forthwith notify the subjects of the report in writing, of the existence of the report and their rights existing under this Act in regard to amendment or expungement. To fulfill the

requirements of this Section, the Child Protective Service Unit shall have the capability of providing or arranging for comprehensive emergency services to children and families at all times of the day or night.

- (4) If (i) at the conclusion of the Unit's initial investigation of a report, the Unit determines the report to be a good faith indication of alleged child abuse or neglect that warrants a formal investigation by the Unit, the Department, any law enforcement agency or any other responsible agency and (ii) the person who is alleged to have caused the abuse or neglect is employed or otherwise engaged in an activity resulting in frequent contact with children and the alleged abuse or neglect are in the course of such employment or activity, then the Department shall, except in investigations where the Director determines that such notification would be detrimental to the Department's investigation, inform the appropriate supervisor or administrator of that employment or activity that the Unit has commenced a formal investigation pursuant to this Act, which may or may not result in an indicated report. The Department shall also notify the person being investigated, unless the Director determines that such notification would be detrimental to the Department's investigation.
- (c) In an investigation of a report of suspected abuse or neglect of a child by a school employee at a school or on school grounds, the Department shall make reasonable efforts to follow the following procedures:
- (1) Investigations involving teachers shall not, to the extent possible, be conducted when the teacher is scheduled to conduct classes. Investigations involving other school employees shall be conducted so as to minimize disruption of the school day. The school employee accused of child abuse or neglect may have his superior, his association or union representative and his attorney present at any interview or meeting at which the teacher or administrator is present. The accused school employee shall be informed by a representative of the Department, at any interview or meeting, of the accused school employee's due process rights and of the steps in the investigation process. The information shall include, but need not necessarily be limited to the right, subject to the approval of the Department, of the school employee to confront the accuser, if the accuser is 14 years of age or older, or the right to review the specific allegations which gave rise to the investigation, and the right to review all materials and evidence that have been submitted to the Department in support of the allegation. These due process rights shall also include the right of the school employee to present countervailing evidence regarding the accusations.
- (2) If a report of neglect or abuse of a child by a teacher or administrator does not involve allegations of sexual abuse or extreme physical abuse, the Child Protective Service Unit shall make reasonable efforts to conduct the initial investigation in coordination with the employee's supervisor. If the Unit determines that the report is a good faith indication of potential child abuse or neglect, it shall then commence a formal investigation under paragraph (3) of subsection (b) of this Section.
- (3) If a report of neglect or abuse of a child by a teacher or administrator involves an allegation of sexual abuse or extreme physical abuse, the Child Protective Unit shall commence an investigation under paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of this Section.
- (d) If the Department has contact with an employer, or with a religious institution or religious official having supervisory or hierarchical authority over a member of the clergy accused

of the abuse of a child, in the course of its investigation, the Department shall notify the employer or the religious institution or religious official, in writing, when a report is unfounded so that any record of the investigation can be expunged from the employee's or member of the clergy's personnel or other records. The Department shall also notify the employee or the member of the clergy, in writing, that notification has been sent to the employer or to the appropriate religious institution or religious official informing the employer or religious institution or religious official that the Department's investigation has resulted in an unfounded report.

- (e) Upon request by the Department, the Department of State Police and law enforcement agencies are authorized to provide criminal history record information as defined in the Illinois Uniform Conviction Information Act and information maintained in the adjudicatory and dispositional record system as defined in Section 2605–355 of the Department of State Police Law (20 ILCS 2605/2605-355) to properly designated employees of the Department of Children and Family Services if the Department determines the information is necessary to perform its duties under the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act, the Child Care Act of 1969, and the Children and Family Services Act. The request shall be in the form and manner required by the Department of State Police. Any information obtained by the Department of Children and Family Services under this Section is confidential and may not be transmitted outside the Department of Children and Family Services other than to a court of competent jurisdiction or unless otherwise authorized by law. Any employee of the Department of Children and Family Services who transmits confidential information in violation of this Section or causes the information to be transmitted in violation of this Section is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor unless the transmittal of the information is authorized by this Section or otherwise authorized by law.

(Source: 91-239, eff. 1-1-00; 92-801, eff. 8-16-02.)

(325 ILCS 5/7.5)

Sec. 7.5. If the Child Protective Service Unit is denied reasonable access to a child by the parents or other persons and it deems that the health, safety, and best interests of the child so require, it shall request the intervention of a local law enforcement agency or seek an appropriate court order to examine and interview the child.

(Source: P.A. 90-28, eff. 1-1-98.)

(325 ILCS 5/7.6)

Sec. 7.6. There shall be a single State-wide, toll-free telephone number established and maintained by the Department which all persons, whether or not mandated by law, may use to report suspected child abuse or neglect at any hour of the day or night, on any day of the week. Immediately upon receipt of such reports, the Department shall transmit the contents of the report, either orally or electronically, to the appropriate Child Protective Service Unit. Any other person may use the State-wide number to obtain assistance or information concerning the handling of child abuse and neglect cases.

Wherever the Statewide number is posted, there shall also be posted the following notice:

"Any person who knowingly transmits a false report to the Department commits the offense of disorderly conduct under subsection (a)(7) of Section 26-1 of the Criminal Code of 1961. A violation of this subsection is a Class B misdemeanor, punishable by a term of imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or by a fine not to exceed \$500, or by both such term and fine."

(Source: P.A. 84-1318.)

(325 ILCS 5/7.7)

Sec. 7.7. There shall be a central register of all cases of suspected child abuse or neglect reported and maintained by the Department under this Act. Through the recording of initial, preliminary, and final reports, the central register shall be operated in such a manner as to enable the Department to: (1) immediately identify and locate prior reports of child abuse or neglect; (2) continuously monitor the current status of all reports of child abuse or neglect being provided services under this Act; and (3) regularly evaluate the effectiveness of existing laws and programs through the development and analysis of statistical and other information.

The Department shall maintain in the central register a listing of unfounded reports where the subject of the unfounded report requests that the record not be expunged because the subject alleges an intentional false report was made. Such a request must be made by the subject in writing to the Department, within 10 days of the investigation.

The Department shall also maintain in the central register a listing of unfounded reports where the report was classified as a priority one or priority two report in accordance with the Department's rules or the report was made by a person mandated to report suspected abuse or neglect under this Act.

The Department shall maintain in the central register for 3 years a listing of unfounded reports involving the death of a child, the sexual abuse of a child, or serious physical injury to a child as defined by the Department in rules.

(Source: P.A. 90-15, eff. 6-13-97.)

(325 ILCS 5/7.8)

Sec. 7.8. Upon receiving an oral or written report of suspected child abuse or neglect, the Department shall immediately notify, either orally or electronically, the Child Protective Service Unit of a previous report concerning a subject of the present report or other pertinent information. In addition, upon satisfactory identification procedures, to be established by Department regulation, any person authorized to have access to records under Section 11.1 relating to child abuse and neglect may request and shall be immediately provided the information requested in accordance with this Act. However, no information shall be released unless it prominently states the report is "indicated", and only information from "indicated" reports shall be released, except that information concerning pending reports may be released to any person authorized under paragraphs (1), (2), (3) and (11) of Section 11.1. In addition, State's Attorneys are authorized to receive unfounded reports for prosecution purposes related to the transmission of false reports of child abuse or neglect in violation of subsection (a), paragraph (7) of Section 26-1 of the Criminal Code of 1961 and guardians ad litem appointed under Article II of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 shall receive the classified reports set forth in Section 7.14 of this Act in conformance with paragraph (19) of Section 11.1 and Section 7.14 of this Act. The names and other identifying data and the dates and the circumstances of any persons requesting or receiving information from the central register shall be entered in the register record.

(Source: P.A. 86-904; 86-1293; 87-649.)

(325 ILCS 5/7.9)

Sec. 7.9. The Department shall prepare, print, and distribute initial, preliminary, and final reporting forms to each Child Protective Service Unit. Initial written reports from the reporting source shall contain the following information to the extent known at the time the report is made: (1) the names and addresses of the child and his parents or other persons responsible for his welfare; (1.5) the name and address of the school that the child attends (or the school that the child last attended, if the report is written during the summer when school is not in session), and

the name of the school district in which the school is located, if applicable; (2) the child's age, sex, and race; (3) the nature and extent of the child's abuse or neglect, including any evidence of prior injuries, abuse, or neglect of the child or his siblings; (4) the names of the persons apparently responsible for the abuse or neglect; (5) family composition, including names, ages, sexes, and races of other children in the home; (6) the name of the person making the report, his occupation, and where he can be reached; (7) the actions taken by the reporting source, including the taking of photographs and x-rays, placing the child in temporary protective custody, or notifying the medical examiner or coroner; and (8) any other information the person making the report believes might be helpful in the furtherance of the purposes of this Act.

(Source: P.A. 92-295, eff. 1-1-02; 92-651, eff. 7-11-02.)

(325 ILCS 5/7.10)

Sec. 7.10. Upon the receipt of each oral report made under this Act, the Child Protective Service Unit shall immediately transmit a copy thereof to the state central register of child abuse and neglect. A preliminary report from a Child Protective Service Unit shall be made at the time of the first of any 30-day extensions made pursuant to Section 7.12 and shall describe the status of the related investigation up to that time, including an evaluation of the present family situation and danger to the child or children, corrections or up-dating of the initial report, and actions taken or contemplated.

(Source: P.A. 86-904.)

(325 ILCS 5/7.12)

Sec. 7.12. The Child Protective Service Unit shall determine, within 60 days, whether the report is "indicated" or "unfounded" and report it forthwith to the central register; where it is not possible to initiate or complete an investigation within 60 days the report may be deemed "undetermined" provided every effort has been made to undertake a complete investigation. The Department may extend the period in which such determinations must be made in individual cases for additional periods of up to 30 days each for good cause shown. The Department shall by rule establish what shall constitute good cause.

(Source: P.A. 86-904.)

(325 ILCS 5/7.13)

Sec. 7.13. The reports made under this Act may contain such additional information in the furtherance of the purposes of this Act as the Department, by rule, may require.

(Source: P.A. 81-1077.)

(325 ILCS 5/7.14)

Sec. 7.14. All reports in the central register shall be classified in one of three categories: "indicated", "unfounded" or "undetermined", as the case may be. After the report is classified, the person making the classification shall determine whether the child named in the report is the subject of an action under Article II of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987. If the child is the subject of an action under Article II of the Juvenile Court Act, the Department shall transmit a copy of the report to the guardian ad litem appointed for the child under Section 2-17 of the Juvenile Court Act. All information identifying the subjects of an unfounded report shall be expunged from the register forthwith, except as provided in Section 7.7. Unfounded reports may only be made available to the Child Protective Service Unit when investigating a subsequent report of suspected abuse or maltreatment involving a child named in the unfounded report; and to the subject of the report, provided that the subject requests the report within 60 days of being notified that the report was unfounded. The Child Protective Service Unit shall not indicate the subsequent report solely based upon the existence of the prior unfounded report or reports. Notwithstanding any

other provision of law to the contrary, an unfounded report shall not be admissible in any judicial or administrative proceeding or action. Identifying information on all other records shall be removed from the register no later than 5 years after the report is indicated. However, if another report is received involving the same child, his sibling or offspring, or a child in the care of the persons responsible for the child's welfare, or involving the same alleged offender, the identifying information may be maintained in the register until 5 years after the subsequent case or report is closed.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, identifying information in indicated reports involving serious physical injury to a child as defined by the Department in rules, may be retained longer than 5 years after the report is indicated or after the subsequent case or report is closed, and may not be removed from the register except as provided by the Department in rules. Identifying information in indicated reports involving sexual penetration of a child, sexual molestation of a child, sexual exploitation of a child, torture of a child, or the death of a child, as defined by the Department in rules, shall be retained for a period of not less than 50 years after the report is indicated or after the subsequent case or report is closed.

(Source: P.A. 90-15, eff. 6-13-97; 92-801, eff. 8-16-02; P.A. 94-160 eff 7-11-05.)

(325 ILCS 5/7.15)

Sec. 7.15. The central register may contain such other information which the Department determines to be in furtherance of the purposes of this Act. Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 7.14 and 7.16, the Department may amend or remove from the central register appropriate records upon good cause shown and upon notice to the subjects of the report and the Child Protective Service Unit.

(Source: P.A. 90-15, eff. 6-13-97.)

(325 ILCS 5/7.16)

Sec. 7.16. For any investigation or appeal initiated on or after, or pending on July 1, 1998, the following time frames shall apply. Within 60 days after the notification of the completion of the Child Protective Service Unit investigation, determined by the date of the notification sent by the Department, a subject of a report may request the Department to amend the record or remove the record of the report from the register. Such request shall be in writing and directed to such person as the Department designates in the notification. If the Department disregards any request to do so or does not act within 10 days, the subject shall have the right to a hearing within the Department to determine whether the record of the report should be amended or removed on the grounds that it is inaccurate or it is being maintained in a manner inconsistent with this Act, except that there shall be no such right to a hearing on the ground of the report's inaccuracy if there has been a court finding of child abuse or neglect, the report's accuracy being conclusively presumed on such finding. Such hearing shall be held within a reasonable time after the subject's request and at a reasonable place and hour. The appropriate Child Protective Service Unit shall be given notice of the hearing. In such hearings, the burden of proving the accuracy and consistency of the record shall be on the Department and the appropriate Child Protective Service Unit. The hearing shall be conducted by the Director or his designee, who is hereby authorized and empowered to order the amendment or removal of the record to make it accurate and consistent with this Act. The decision shall be made, in writing, at the close of the hearing, or within 45 days thereof, and shall state the reasons upon which it is based. Decisions of the Department under this Section are administrative decisions subject to judicial review under the Administrative Review Law.

Should the Department grant the request of the subject of the report pursuant to this Section either on administrative review or

after administrative hearing to amend an indicated report to an unfounded report, the report shall be released and expunged in accordance with the standards set forth in Section 7.14 of this Act.

(Source: P.A. 90-15, eff. 6-13-97; 90-608, eff. 6-30-98.)

(325 ILCS 5/7.17)

Sec. 7.17. To the fullest extent possible, written notice of any amendment, expunction, or removal of any record made under this Act shall be served upon each subject of such report and the appropriate Child Protective Service Unit. Upon receipt of such notice, the Child Protective Service Unit shall take similar action in regard to the local child abuse and neglect index and shall inform, for the same purpose, any other individuals or agencies which received such record under this Act or in any other manner. Nothing in this Section is intended to require the destruction of case records.

(Source: P.A. 81-1077.)

(325 ILCS 5/7.18)

Sec. 7.18. Pursuant to Sections 7.15 and 7.16 and for good cause shown, the Child Protective Service Unit may amend any report previously sent to the State-wide center. Unless otherwise prescribed by this Act, the content, form, manner and timing of making the reports shall be established by rules of the Department.

(Source: P.A. 81-1077.)

(325 ILCS 5/7.19)

Sec. 7.19. Upon request, a subject of a report shall be entitled to receive a copy of all information contained in the central register pertaining to his case. However, the Department may prohibit the release of data that would identify or locate a person who, in good faith, made a report or cooperated in a subsequent investigation. In addition, the Department may seek a court order from the circuit court prohibiting the release of any information which the court finds is likely to be harmful to the subject of the report.

(Source: P.A. 81-1077.)

(325 ILCS 5/7.20)

Sec. 7.20. Inter-agency agreements for information.

The Department shall enter into an inter-agency agreement with the Secretary of State to establish a procedure by which employees of the Department may have immediate access to driver's license records maintained by the Secretary of State if the Department determines the information is necessary to perform its duties under the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act, the Child Care Act of 1969, and the Children and Family Services Act. The Department shall enter into an inter-agency agreement with the Illinois Department of Public Aid and the Department of Human Services (acting as successor to the Department of Public Aid under the Department of Human Services Act) to establish a procedure by which employees of the Department may have immediate access to records, files, papers, and communications (except medical, alcohol or drug assessment or treatment, mental health, or any other medical records) of the Illinois Department of Public Aid, county departments of public aid, the Department of Human Services, and local governmental units receiving State or federal funds or aid to provide public aid, if the Department determines the information is necessary to perform its duties under the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act, the Child Care Act of 1969, and the Children and Family Services Act.

(Source: P.A. 88-614, eff. 9-7-94; 89-507, eff. 7-1-97.)

(325 ILCS 5/7.21)

Sec. 7.21. Multidisciplinary Review Committee.

(a) The Department may establish multidisciplinary review committees in each region of the State to assure that

mandated reporters have the ability to have a review conducted on any situation where a child abuse or neglect report made by them was "unfounded", and they have concerns about the adequacy of the investigation. These committees shall draw upon the expertise of the Child Death Review Teams as necessary and practicable. Each committee will be composed of the following: a health care professional, a Department employee, a law enforcement official, a licensed social worker, and a representative of the State's attorney's office. In appointing members of a committee, primary consideration shall be given to a prospective member's prior experience in dealing with cases of suspected child abuse or neglect.

(b) Whenever the Department determines that a reported incident of child abuse or neglect from a mandated reporter is "unfounded", the mandated reporter may request a review of the investigation within 10 days of the notification of the final finding. Whenever the Department determines that a reported incident of child abuse or neglect from a mandated reporter or any other reporter is "unfounded", the minor's guardian ad litem appointed under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 may request a review of the investigation within 10 days of the notification of the final finding if the subject of the report is also the minor for whom the guardian ad litem has been appointed. The review of the investigation requested by the guardian ad litem may be conducted by the Regional Child Protection Manager.

A review under this subsection will be conducted by the committee, except those requests for review that are made by the guardian ad litem, which shall be conducted by the Regional Child Protection Manager. The Department shall make available to the committee all information in the Department's possession concerning the case. The committee shall make recommendations to the Department as to the adequacy of the investigation and of the accuracy of the final finding determination. These findings shall be forwarded to the Regional Child Protection Manager.

(c) The Department shall provide complete records of these investigations to the committee. Records provided to the committee and recommendation reports generated by the committee shall not be public record.

(c-5) On or before October 1 of each year, the Department shall prepare a report setting forth (i) the number of investigations reviewed by each committee during the previous fiscal year and (ii) the number of those investigations that the committee found to be inadequate. The report shall also include a summary of the committee's comments and a summary of the corrective action, if any, that was taken in response to the committee's recommendations. The report shall be a public record. The Department shall submit the report to the General Assembly and shall make the report available to the public upon request.

(d) The Department shall adopt rules to implement this Section.

(Source: P.A. 90-239, eff. 7-28-97; 92-812, eff. 6-13-00.)

(325 ILCS 5/8.1)

Sec. 8.1. If the Child Protective Service Unit determines after investigating a report that there is no credible evidence that a child is abused or neglected, it shall deem the report to be an unfounded report. However, if it appears that the child or family could benefit from other social services, the local service may suggest such services, including services under Section 8.2, for the family's voluntary acceptance or refusal. If the family declines such services, the Department shall take appropriate action in keeping with the best interest of the child, including referring a member of the child's family to a facility licensed by the

Department of Human Services or the Department of Public Health.

(Source: P.A. 88-85; 88-487; 88-670, eff. 12-2-94; 89-507, eff. 7-1-97.)

(325 ILCS 5/8.2)

Sec. 8.2. If the Child Protective Service Unit determines, following an investigation made pursuant to Section 7.4 of this Act, that there is credible evidence that the child is abused or neglected, the Department shall assess the family's need for services, and, as necessary, develop, with the family, an appropriate service plan for the family's voluntary acceptance or refusal. In any case where there is evidence that the perpetrator of the abuse or neglect is an addict or alcoholic as defined in the Alcoholism and Other Drug Abuse and Dependency Act, the Department, when making referrals for drug or alcohol abuse services, shall make such referrals to facilities licensed by the Department of Human Services or the Department of Public Health. The Department shall comply with Section 8.1 by explaining its lack of legal authority to compel the acceptance of services and may explain its concomitant authority to petition the Circuit court under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 or refer the case to the local law enforcement authority or State's attorney for criminal prosecution.

For purposes of this Act, the term "family preservation services" refers to all services to help families, including adoptive and extended families. Family preservation services shall be offered, where safe and appropriate, to prevent the placement of children in substitute care when the children can be cared for at home or in the custody of the person responsible for the children's welfare without endangering the children's health or safety, to reunite them with their families if so placed when reunification is an appropriate goal, or to maintain an adoptive placement. The term "homemaker" includes emergency caretakers, homemakers, caretakers, housekeepers and chore services. The term "counseling" includes individual therapy, infant stimulation therapy, family therapy, group therapy, self-help groups, drug and alcohol abuse counseling, vocational counseling and post-adoptive services. The term "day care" includes protective day care and day care to meet educational, prevocational or vocational needs. The term "emergency assistance and advocacy" includes coordinated services to secure emergency cash, food, housing and medical assistance or advocacy for other subsistence and family protective needs.

Before July 1, 2000, appropriate family preservation services shall, subject to appropriation, be included in the service plan if the Department has determined that those services will ensure the child's health and safety, are in the child's best interests, and will not place the child in imminent risk of harm. Beginning July 1, 2000, appropriate family preservation services shall be uniformly available throughout the State. The Department shall promptly notify children and families of the Department's responsibility to offer and provide family preservation services as identified in the service plan. Such plans may include but are not limited to: case management services; homemakers; counseling; parent education; day care; emergency assistance and advocacy assessments; respite care; in-home health care; transportation to obtain any of the above services; and medical assistance. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to create a private right of action or claim on the part of any individual or child welfare agency.

The Department shall provide a preliminary report to the General Assembly no later than January 1, 1991, in regard to the provision of services authorized pursuant to this Section. The report shall include:

- (a) the number of families and children served, by type of services;

- (b) the outcome from the provision of such services, including the number of families which remained intact at least 6 months following the termination of services;
- (c) the number of families which have been subjects of founded reports of abuse following the termination of services;
- (d) an analysis of general family circumstances in which family preservation services have been determined to be an effective intervention;
- (e) information regarding the number of families in need of services but unserved due to budget or program criteria guidelines;
- (f) an estimate of the time necessary for and the annual cost of statewide implementation of such services;
- (g) an estimate of the length of time before expansion of these services will be made to include families with children over the age of 6; and
- (h) recommendations regarding any proposed legislative changes to this program.

Each Department field office shall maintain on a local basis directories of services available to children and families in the local area where the Department office is located.

The Department shall refer children and families served pursuant to this Section to private agencies and governmental agencies, where available.

Where there are 2 equal proposals from both a not-for-profit and a for-profit agency to provide services, the Department shall give preference to the proposal from the not-for-profit agency.

No service plan shall compel any child or parent to engage in any activity or refrain from any activity which is not reasonably related to remedying a condition or conditions that gave rise or which could give rise to any finding of child abuse or neglect.

(Source: P.A. 89-21, eff. 6-6-95; 89-507, eff. 7-1-97; 90-14, eff. 7-1-97; 90-28, eff. 1-1-98; 90-608, eff. 6-30-98.)

(325 ILCS 5/8.3)

Sec. 8.3. The Department shall assist a Circuit Court during all stages of the court proceeding in accordance with the purposes of this Act and the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 by providing full, complete, and accurate information to the court and by appearing in court if requested by the court. Failure to provide assistance requested by a court shall be enforceable through proceedings for contempt of court.

(Source: P.A. 88-310.)

(325 ILCS 5/8.4)

Sec. 8.4. The Department shall provide or arrange for and monitor, as authorized by this Act, rehabilitative services for children and their families on a voluntary basis or under a final or intermediate order of the Court.

(Source: P.A. 84-611.)

(325 ILCS 5/8.5)

Sec. 8.5. The Child Protective Service Unit shall maintain a local child abuse and neglect index of all cases reported under this Act which will enable it to determine the location of case records and to monitor the timely and proper investigation and disposition of cases. The index shall include the information contained in the initial, progress, and final reports required under this Act, and any other appropriate information.

(Source: P.A. 81-1077.)

(325 ILCS 5/8.6)

Sec. 8.6. Reports to a child's school.

Within 10 days after completing an investigation of alleged physical or sexual abuse under this Act, if the report is indicated, the Child Protective Service Unit shall send a copy of its final finding report to the school that the child who is the indicated victim of the report attends. If the final finding report is sent

during the summer when the school is not in session, the report shall be sent to the last school that the child attended. The final finding report shall be sent as "confidential", and the school shall be responsible for ensuring that the report remains confidential in accordance with the Illinois School Student Records Act. If an indicated finding is overturned in an appeal or hearing, or if the Department has made a determination that the child is no longer at risk of physical or sexual harm, the Department shall request that the final finding report be purged from the student's record, and the school shall purge the final finding report from the student's record and return the report to the Department. If an indicated report is expunged from the central register, and that report has been sent to a child's school, the Department shall request that the final finding report be purged from the student's record, and the school shall purge the final finding report from the student's record and return the report to the Department.
(Source: P.A. 92-295, eff. 1-1-02.)

(325 ILCS 5/9)

Sec. 9. Any person, institution or agency, under this Act, participating in good faith in the making of a report or referral, or in the investigation of such a report or referral or in the taking of photographs and x-rays or in the retaining a child in temporary protective custody or in making a disclosure of information concerning reports of child abuse and neglect in compliance with Sections 4.2 and 11.1 of this Act shall have immunity from any liability, civil, criminal or that otherwise might result by reason of such actions. For the purpose of any proceedings, civil or criminal, the good faith of any persons required to report or refer, or permitted to report, cases of suspected child abuse or neglect or permitted to refer individuals under this Act or required to disclose information concerning reports of child abuse and neglect in compliance with Sections 4.2 and 11.1 of this Act, shall be presumed.
(Source: P.A. 90-15, eff. 6-13-97.)

(325 ILCS 5/9.1)

Sec. 9.1. Employer discrimination.

No employer shall discharge, demote or suspend, or threaten to discharge, demote or suspend, or in any manner discriminate against any employee who makes any good faith oral or written report of suspected child abuse or neglect, or who is or will be a witness or testify in any investigation or proceeding concerning a report of suspected child abuse or neglect.
(Source: P.A. 86-904.)

(325 ILCS 5/10)

Sec. 10. Any person who makes a report or who investigates a report under this Act shall testify fully in any judicial proceeding resulting from such report, as to any evidence of abuse or neglect, or the cause thereof. Any person who is required to report a suspected case of abuse or neglect under Section 4 of this Act shall testify fully in any administrative hearing resulting from such report, as to any evidence of abuse or neglect or the cause thereof. No evidence shall be excluded by reason of any common law or statutory privilege relating to communications between the alleged perpetrator of abuse or neglect, or the child subject of the report under this Act and the person making or investigating the report.
(Source: P.A. 86-904.)

(325 ILCS 5/11)

Sec. 11. All records concerning reports of child abuse and neglect or records concerning referrals under this Act and all records generated as a result of such reports or referrals, shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed except as specifically authorized by this Act or other applicable law. It is a Class A misdemeanor to permit, assist, or encourage the unauthorized

release of any information contained in such reports, referrals or records.

Nothing contained in this Section prevents the sharing or disclosure of records relating or pertaining to the death of a minor under the care of or receiving services from the Department of Children and Family Services and under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court with the juvenile court, the State's Attorney, and the minor's attorney.

(Source: P.A. 90-15, eff. 6-13-97.)

(325 ILCS 5/11.1)

Sec. 11.1. Access to records.

- (a) A person shall have access to the records described in Section 11 only in furtherance of purposes directly connected with the administration of this Act or the Intergovernmental Missing Child Recovery Act of 1984. Those persons and purposes for access include:
- (1) Department staff in the furtherance of their responsibilities under this Act, or for the purpose of completing background investigations on persons or agencies licensed by the Department or with whom the Department contracts for the provision of child welfare services.
 - (2) A law enforcement agency investigating known or suspected child abuse or neglect, known or suspected involvement with child pornography, known or suspected criminal sexual assault, known or suspected criminal sexual abuse, or any other sexual offense when a child is alleged to be involved.
 - (3) The Department of State Police when administering the provisions of the Intergovernmental Missing Child Recovery Act of 1984.
 - (4) A physician who has before him a child whom he reasonably suspects may be abused or neglected.
 - (5) A person authorized under Section 5 of this Act to place a child in temporary protective custody when such person requires the information in the report or record to determine whether to place the child in temporary protective custody.
 - (6) A person having the legal responsibility or authorization to care for, treat, or supervise a child, or a parent, prospective adoptive parent, foster parent, guardian, or other person responsible for the child's welfare, who is the subject of a report.
 - (7) Except in regard to harmful or detrimental information as provided in Section 7.19, any subject of the report, and if the subject of the report is a minor, his guardian or guardian ad litem.
 - (8) A court, upon its finding that access to such records may be necessary for the determination of an issue before such court; however, such access shall be limited to in camera inspection, unless the court determines that public disclosure of the information contained therein is necessary for the resolution of an issue then pending before it.
 - (8.1) A probation officer or other authorized representative of a probation or court services department conducting an investigation ordered by a court under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987.
 - (9) A grand jury, upon its determination that access to such records is necessary in the conduct of its official business.
 - (10) Any person authorized by the Director, in writing, for audit or bona fide research purposes.
 - (11) Law enforcement agencies, coroners or medical examiners, physicians, courts, school superintendents and child welfare agencies in other states who are

responsible for child abuse or neglect investigations or background investigations.

- (12) The Department of Professional Regulation, the State Board of Education and school superintendents in Illinois, who may use or disclose information from the records as they deem necessary to conduct investigations or take disciplinary action, as provided by law.
 - (13) A coroner or medical examiner who has reason to believe that a child has died as the result of abuse or neglect.
 - (14) The Director of a State-operated facility when an employee of that facility is the perpetrator in an indicated report.
 - (15) The operator of a licensed child care facility or a facility licensed by the Department of Human Services (as successor to the Department of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse) in which children reside when a current or prospective employee of that facility is the perpetrator in an indicated child abuse or neglect report, pursuant to Section 4.3 of the Child Care Act of 1969.
 - (16) Members of a multidisciplinary team in the furtherance of its responsibilities under subsection (b) of Section 7.1. All reports concerning child abuse and neglect made available to members of such multidisciplinary teams and all records generated as a result of such reports shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed, except as specifically authorized by this Act or other applicable law. It is a Class A misdemeanor to permit, assist or encourage the unauthorized release of any information contained in such reports or records. Nothing contained in this Section prevents the sharing of reports or records relating or pertaining to the death of a minor under the care of or receiving services from the Department of Children and Family Services and under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court with the juvenile court, the State's Attorney, and the minor's attorney.
 - (17) The Department of Human Services, as provided in Section 17 of the Disabled Persons Rehabilitation Act.
 - (18) Any other agency or investigative body, including the Department of Public Health and a local board of health, authorized by State law to conduct an investigation into the quality of care provided to children in hospitals and other State regulated care facilities. The access to and release of information from such records shall be subject to the approval of the Director of the Department or his designee.
 - (19) The person appointed, under Section 2-17 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987, as the guardian ad litem of a minor who is the subject of a report or records under this Act.
 - (20) The Department of Human Services, as provided in Section 10 of the Early Intervention Services System Act, and the operator of a facility providing early intervention services pursuant to that Act, for the purpose of determining whether a current or prospective employee who provides or may provide direct services under that Act is the perpetrator in an indicated report of child abuse or neglect filed under this Act.
- (b) Nothing contained in this Act prevents the sharing or disclosure of information or records relating or pertaining to juveniles subject to the provisions of the Serious Habitual Offender Comprehensive Action Program when that information is used to assist in the early identification and treatment of habitual juvenile offenders.
 - (c) To the extent that persons or agencies are given access to information pursuant to this Section, those persons or

agencies may give this information to and receive this information from each other in order to facilitate an investigation conducted by those persons or agencies.

(Source: PA 93-147, eff. 1-1-04; PA 94-1010, eff. 10-1-06.)

(325 ILCS 5/11.1a)

Sec. 11.1a. Disclosure of information.

- (a) The Director or a person designated in writing by the Director for this purpose may disclose information regarding the abuse or neglect of a child as set forth in this Section, the investigation thereof, and any services related thereto, if he or she determines that such disclosure is not contrary to the best interests of the child, the child's siblings, or other children in the household, and one of the following factors are present:
 - (1) The subject of the report has been criminally charged with committing a crime related to the child abuse or neglect report; or
 - (2) A law enforcement agency or official, a State's Attorney, or a judge of the State court system has publicly disclosed in a report as part of his or her official duty, information regarding the investigation of a report or the provision of services by the Department; or
 - (3) An adult subject of the report has knowingly and voluntarily made a public disclosure concerning a Child Abuse and Neglect Tracking System report; or
 - (4) The child named in the report has been critically injured or died.
- (b) Information may be disclosed pursuant to this Section as follows:
 - (1) The name of the alleged abused or neglected child.
 - (2) The current status of the investigation, including whether a determination of credible evidence has been made.
 - (3) Identification of child protective or other services provided or actions taken regarding the child named in the report and his or her family as a result of this report.
 - (4) Whether there have been past reports of child abuse or neglect involving this child or family, or both. Any such reports shall be clearly identified as being "Indicated", "Unfounded", or "Pending".
 - (5) Whether the Department has a current or past open service case with the family, and a history of what types of services have been, or are being, provided.
 - (6) Any extraordinary or pertinent information concerning the circumstances of the report, if the Director determines such disclosure is consistent with the public interest.
- (c) Any disclosure of information pursuant to this Section shall not identify the name of or provide identifying information regarding the source of the report.
- (d) In determining pursuant to subsection (a) of this Section, whether disclosure will be contrary to the best interests of the child, the child's siblings, or other children in the household, the Director shall consider the interest in privacy of the child and the child's family and the effects which disclosure may have on efforts to reunite and provide services to the family.
- (e) Except as it applies directly to the cause of the abuse or neglect of the child, nothing in this Section shall be deemed to authorize the release or disclosure of the substance or content of any psychological, psychiatric, therapeutic, clinical, or medical reports, evaluations, or like materials pertaining to the child or the child's family. Prior to the release or disclosure of any psychological, psychiatric, or therapeutic reports pursuant to this subsection, the Deputy Director of Clinical Services shall review such materials and make recommendations regarding its release. Any disclosure of information pursuant to this Section shall not

identify the health care provider, health care facility or other maker of the report or source of any psychological, psychiatric, therapeutic, clinical, or medical reports, evaluations, or like materials.

(f) Regarding child abuse or neglect reports which occur at a facility licensed by the Department of Children and Family Services, only the following information may be disclosed or released:

- (1) The name of the facility.
- (2) The nature of the allegations of abuse or neglect.
- (3) The number and ages of child victims involved, and their relationship to the perpetrator.
- (4) Actions the Department has taken to ensure the safety of the children during and subsequent to the investigation.
- (5) The final finding status of the investigation.

(Source: P.A. 90-75, eff. 1-1-98.)

(325 ILCS 5/11.2)

Sec. 11.2. Disclosure to mandated reporting source. A mandated reporting source as provided in Section 4 of this Act may receive appropriate information about the findings and actions taken by the Child Protective Service Unit in response to its report. The information shall include the actions taken by the Child Protective Service Unit to ensure a child's safety.

(Source: P.A. 92-319, eff. 1-1-02.)

(325 ILCS 5/11.2a)

Sec. 11.2a. Disclosure to extended family member.

Upon request, an extended family member interviewed for relevant information in the course of an investigation by the Child Protective Service Unit may receive appropriate information about the findings and actions taken by the Child Protective Service Unit to ensure the safety of the child or children who were the subjects of the investigation.

(Source: P.A. 92-319, eff. 1-1-02.)

(325 ILCS 5/11.3)

Sec. 11.3. A person given access to the names or other information identifying the subjects of the report, except the subject of the report, shall not make public such identifying information unless he is a State's attorney or other law enforcement official and the purpose is to initiate court action. Violation of this Section is a Class A misdemeanor.

(Source: P.A. 81-1077.)

(325 ILCS 5/11.4)

Sec. 11.4. Nothing in this Act affects existing policies or procedures concerning the status of court and criminal justice system records.

(Source: P.A. 81-1077.)

(325 ILCS 5/11.5)

Sec. 11.5. Within the appropriation available, the Department shall conduct a continuing education and training program for State and local staff, persons and officials required to report, the general public, and other persons engaged in or intending to engage in the prevention, identification, and treatment of child abuse and neglect. The program shall be designed to encourage the fullest degree of reporting of known and suspected child abuse and neglect, and to improve communication, cooperation, and coordination among all agencies in the identification, prevention, and treatment of child abuse and neglect. The program shall inform the general public and professionals of the nature and extent of child abuse and neglect and their responsibilities, obligations, powers and immunity from liability under this Act. It may include information on the diagnosis of child abuse and neglect and the roles and procedures of the Child Protective Service Unit, the Department and central register, the courts and of the protective, treatment, and

ameliorative services available to children and their families. Such information may also include special needs of mothers at risk of delivering a child whose life or development may be threatened by a handicapping condition, to ensure informed consent to treatment of the condition and understanding of the unique child care responsibilities required for such a child. The program may also encourage parents and other persons having responsibility for the welfare of children to seek assistance on their own in meeting their child care responsibilities and encourage the voluntary acceptance of available services when they are needed. It may also include publicity and dissemination of information on the existence and number of the 24 hour, State-wide, toll-free telephone service to assist persons seeking assistance and to receive reports of known and suspected abuse and neglect.

Within the appropriation available, the Department also shall conduct a continuing education and training program for State and local staff involved in investigating reports of child abuse or neglect made under this Act. The program shall be designed to train such staff in the necessary and appropriate procedures to be followed in investigating cases which it appears may result in civil or criminal charges being filed against a person. Program subjects shall include but not be limited to the gathering of evidence with a view toward presenting such evidence in court and the involvement of State or local law enforcement agencies in the investigation. The program shall be conducted in cooperation with State or local law enforcement agencies, State's Attorneys and other components of the criminal justice system as the Department deems appropriate.

(Source: P.A. 85-984.)

(325 ILCS 5/11.6)

Sec. 11.6. All final administrative decisions of the Department under this Act are subject to judicial review under the Administrative Review Law, as now or hereafter amended, and the rules adopted pursuant thereto. The term "administrative decision" is defined as in Section 3-101 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

(Source: P.A. 82-783.)

(325 ILCS 5/11.7)

Sec. 11.7.

(a) The Director shall appoint the chairperson and members of a "State-wide Citizen's Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect" to consult with and advise the Director. The Committee shall be composed of individuals of distinction in human services, neonatal medical care, needs and rights of the disabled, law and community life, broadly representative of social and economic communities across the State, who shall be appointed to 3 year staggered terms. The chairperson and members of the Committee shall serve without compensation, although their travel and per diem expenses shall be reimbursed in accordance with standard State procedures. Under procedures adopted by the Committee, it may meet at any time, confer with any individuals, groups, and agencies; and may issue reports or recommendations on any aspect of child abuse or neglect it deems appropriate.

(b) The Committee shall advise the Director on setting priorities for the administration of child abuse prevention, shelters and service programs, as specified in Section 4a of "An Act creating the Department of Children and Family Services, codifying its powers and duties, and repealing certain Acts and Sections herein named", approved June 4, 1963, as amended.

(c) The Committee shall advise the Director on policies and procedures with respect to the medical neglect of newborns and infants.

(Source: P.A. 84-611.)

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