

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 427 Session of  
2009

INTRODUCED BY PETRI, FEBRUARY 13, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, FEBRUARY 13, 2009

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in child protective services, further  
3 providing for the disposition of complaints received and for  
4 investigating performance of county agency.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Sections 6334(a) and 6343(b) of Title 23 of the  
8 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended to read:

9 § 6334. Disposition of complaints received.

10 (a) Notice to county agency.--Upon receipt of a complaint of  
11 suspected child abuse, the department shall [immediately]:

12 (1) Immediately transmit orally to the appropriate  
13 county agency notice that the complaint of suspected child  
14 abuse has been received and the substance of the complaint.

15 (2) (i) If the Statewide central register or the  
16 pending complaint file contains information indicating a  
17 prior report or a current investigation concerning a  
18 subject of the report, the department shall immediately  
19 notify the appropriate county agency of this fact.

1           (ii) The appropriate county agency shall mean the  
2           agency in the county where the suspected child abuse  
3           occurred.

4           (iii) If the residency of the subjects is a factor  
5           that requires the cooperation of more than one county  
6           agency, the department shall develop regulations to  
7           ensure the cooperation of those agencies in carrying out  
8           the requirements of this chapter.

9           (3) The department may at any time investigate the  
10          county agency's performance with regard to a complaint of  
11          child abuse. The investigation may begin without advance  
12          notice to the county agency.

13          \* \* \*

14   § 6343. Investigating performance of county agency.

15          \* \* \*

16          (b) Performance audit.--

17          (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter,  
18          the secretary or a designee of the secretary may direct, at  
19          their discretion, and [after reasonable notice to the county  
20          agency] at least once annually shall direct, a performance  
21          audit of any activity engaged in pursuant to this chapter.  
22          The department shall not give advance notice to the county  
23          agency that a performance audit may be conducted.

24          (2) Once every two years the department shall direct a  
25          performance audit of all public or private agencies from  
26          which a county agency has purchased services.

27          \* \* \*

28          Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.