

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2477 Session of
2004

INTRODUCED BY PETRI, MARCH 23, 2004

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 23, 2004

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, further providing for definitions; and
3 providing for quality improvement of county agencies.

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

6 Section 1. Section 6303(a) of Title 23 of the Pennsylvania
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding definitions to read:

8 § 6303. Definitions.

9 (a) General rule.--The following words and phrases when used
10 in this chapter shall have the meanings given to them in this
11 section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 * * *

13 "Accreditation." The recognition of an entity such as a
14 county or private agency as maintaining standards that affirm
15 the caliber of the services provided by the agency and afford
16 criteria by which the public may identify the standards for
17 efficient management and high-quality services.

18 "Accreditation agency." A nationally recognized child-care

1 and family-care service and behavioral health care accrediting
2 organization that promotes standards and champions quality
3 services for children, youth and families.

4 * * *

5 Section 2. Subchapter C of Chapter 63 of Title 23 is amended
6 by adding a section to read:

7 § 6350. County agency accreditation.

8 By January 1, 2006, county agencies providing child
9 protective services as defined in section 6303 (relating to
10 definitions) shall be accredited by an accreditation agency. The
11 department shall take appropriate action if a county agency has
12 not achieved accreditation by January 1, 2007, including the
13 withholding of reimbursement for all or part of the activities
14 of the county agency.

15 Section 3. Section 6364 of Title 23 is amended to read:

16 § 6364. Purchasing services of other agencies.

17 (a) General rule.--Any other provision of law
18 notwithstanding but consistent with sections 6361 (relating to
19 organization for child protective services) and 6362 (relating
20 to responsibilities of county agency for child protective
21 services), the county agency, based upon the plan of services as
22 provided in section 6363 (relating to county plan for protective
23 services), may purchase and utilize the services of any
24 appropriate public or private agency.

25 (b) Accreditation.--A public or private agency providing
26 child protective services to a county agency shall be accredited
27 by an accreditation agency. A public or private agency shall
28 receive accreditation by January 1, 2005. If after January 1,
29 2005, the agency has not been accredited, the county agency
30 shall not purchase the services of the public or private agency.

1 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.