
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1252 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY MURT, BISHOP, R. BROWN, BROWNLIE, COHEN, DAVIS,
KINSEY, McNEILL, ROEBUCK, ROZZI, SCHLOSSBERG AND STAATS,
MAY 28, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, MAY 28, 2015

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in child protective services, further
3 providing for the definition of "child abuse."

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

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

8 § 6303. Definitions.

9 * * *

10 (b.1) Child abuse.--The term "child abuse" shall mean
11 intentionally, knowingly or recklessly doing any of the
12 following:

13 (1) Causing bodily injury to a child through any
14 [recent] act or failure to act.

15 (2) Fabricating, feigning or intentionally exaggerating
16 or inducing a medical symptom or disease which results in a
17 potentially harmful medical evaluation or treatment to the
18 child through any [recent] act.

1 (3) Causing or substantially contributing to serious
2 mental injury to a child through any act or failure to act or
3 a series of such acts or failures to act.

4 (4) Causing sexual abuse or exploitation of a child
5 through any act or failure to act.

6 (5) Creating a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to
7 a child through any [recent] act or failure to act.

8 (6) Creating a likelihood of sexual abuse or
9 exploitation of a child through any [recent] act or failure
10 to act.

11 (7) Causing serious physical neglect of a child.

12 (8) Engaging in any of the following recent acts:

13 (i) Kicking, biting, throwing, burning, stabbing or
14 cutting a child in a manner that endangers the child.

15 (ii) Unreasonably restraining or confining a child,
16 based on consideration of the method, location or the
17 duration of the restraint or confinement.

18 (iii) Forcefully shaking a child under one year of
19 age.

20 (iv) Forcefully slapping or otherwise striking a
21 child under one year of age.

22 (v) Interfering with the breathing of a child.

23 (vi) Causing a child to be present at a location
24 while a violation of 18 Pa.C.S. § 7508.2 (relating to
25 operation of methamphetamine laboratory) is occurring,
26 provided that the violation is being investigated by law
27 enforcement.

28 (vii) Leaving a child unsupervised with an
29 individual, other than the child's parent, who the actor
30 knows or reasonably should have known:

1 (A) Is required to register as a Tier II or Tier
2 III sexual offender under 42 Pa.C.S. Ch. 97 Subch. H
3 (relating to registration of sexual offenders), where
4 the victim of the sexual offense was under 18 years
5 of age when the crime was committed.

6 (B) Has been determined to be a sexually violent
7 predator under 42 Pa.C.S. § 9799.24 (relating to
8 assessments) or any of its predecessors.

9 (C) Has been determined to be a sexually violent
10 delinquent child as defined in 42 Pa.C.S. § 9799.12
11 (relating to definitions).

12 (9) Causing the death of the child through any act or
13 failure to act.

14 * * *

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