

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 954 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY STEPHENS, MARCH 17, 2021

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, MARCH 24, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 23 (Domestic
2 Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, dealing
3 with child abuse:
4 in criminal history record information, further providing
5 for information in central repository or automated systems;
6 and,
7 in organization and responsibilities of Child Protective
8 Service, further providing for services for prevention,
9 investigation and treatment of child abuse.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
11 hereby enacts as follows:

12 Section 1. Section 9106 of Title 18 of the Pennsylvania
13 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a subsection to read:
14 § 9106. Information in central repository or automated systems.

15 * * *

16 (f.1) Child abuse investigations.--

17 (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter,
18 a criminal justice agency may disseminate information
19 relating to an allegation or instance of child abuse to a
20 county agency FOR THE PURPOSE OF INVESTIGATING THE ALLEGATION <--
21 OR INSTANCE OF ABUSE or TO A children's advocacy center FOR <--

1 THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING THE INVESTIGATION, as those terms
2 are defined in 23 Pa.C.S. § 6303 (relating to definitions),
3 ~~for the purpose of investigating the allegation or to a~~ <--
4 multidisciplinary review team, multidisciplinary
5 investigative team or child fatality or near fatality review
6 team for the purposes specified in 23 Pa.C.S. § 6365
7 (relating to services for prevention, investigation and
8 treatment of child abuse).

9 (2) A person who is in receipt of confidential
10 information under this subsection and disseminates the
11 information to a person not specifically authorized to
12 receive the information commits a violation of this section.

13 * * *

14 Section 2. Section 6365(f) of Title 23 is amended to read:
15 § 6365. Services for prevention, investigation and treatment of
16 child abuse.

17 * * *

18 (f) Construction.--The provisions of this section shall be
19 construed to assist in the improvement of services designed to
20 identify and prevent child abuse[.] ~~and designed to cooperate as~~ <--
21 ~~fully as possible~~ AND TO FACILITATE COOPERATION with law <--
22 enforcement agencies for the purposes set forth in this section,
23 consistent with 18 Pa.C.S. § 9106(f.1) (relating to information
24 in central repository or automated systems). The provisions
25 shall not be construed to impede or interfere with criminal
26 prosecutions of persons who have committed child abuse.

27 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.