

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1527 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY STEPHENS, DRISCOLL, MILLARD, TAYLOR, PICKETT, ROZZI, CORR, JOZWIAK AND D. COSTA, JUNE 12, 2017

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JANUARY 23, 2018

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in child protective services, further
3 providing for persons required to report suspected child
4 abuse.

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

7 Section 1. Section 6311(a)(16) and ~~(b)(1)(iii)~~ (B)(1) of <--
8 Title 23 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended
9 to read:

10 § 6311. Persons required to report suspected child abuse.

11 (a) Mandated reporters.--The following adults shall make a
12 report of suspected child abuse, subject to subsection (b), if
13 the person has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is a
14 victim of child abuse:

15 * * *

16 (16) An adult family member who is a person responsible
17 for the child's welfare and provides services to a child in a
18 family living home, community home for individuals with an

1 intellectual disability or host home for children which are
2 subject to supervision or licensure by the department under
3 Articles IX and X of the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31,
4 No.21), known as the [Public Welfare] Human Services Code.

5 (b) Basis to report.--

6 (1) A mandated reporter enumerated in subsection (a)
7 shall make a report of suspected child abuse in accordance
8 with section 6313 (relating to reporting procedure), if the
9 mandated reporter has reasonable cause to suspect that a
10 child is a victim of child abuse under any of the following
11 circumstances:

12 * * *

<--

13 ~~(iii) [A] The mandated reporter witnesses an abusive~~
14 ~~act to an identifiable child or a person makes a specific~~
15 ~~disclosure to the mandated reporter that an identifiable~~
16 ~~child is the victim of child abuse.~~

17 * * *

18 (I) THE MANDATED REPORTER WITNESSES AN ACT OF CHILD <--
19 ABUSE AGAINST AN IDENTIFIABLE CHILD.

20 [(I)] (II) THE MANDATED REPORTER COMES INTO CONTACT
21 WITH THE CHILD IN THE COURSE OF EMPLOYMENT, OCCUPATION
22 AND PRACTICE OF A PROFESSION OR THROUGH A REGULARLY
23 SCHEDULED PROGRAM, ACTIVITY OR SERVICE.

24 [(II)] (III) THE MANDATED REPORTER IS DIRECTLY
25 RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CARE, SUPERVISION, GUIDANCE OR
26 TRAINING OF THE CHILD, OR IS AFFILIATED WITH AN AGENCY,
27 INSTITUTION, ORGANIZATION, SCHOOL, REGULARLY ESTABLISHED
28 CHURCH OR RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION OR OTHER ENTITY THAT IS
29 DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CARE, SUPERVISION, GUIDANCE
30 OR TRAINING OF THE CHILD.

1 [(III)] (IV) A PERSON MAKES A SPECIFIC DISCLOSURE TO
2 THE MANDATED REPORTER THAT AN IDENTIFIABLE CHILD IS THE
3 VICTIM OF CHILD ABUSE.

4 [(IV)] (V) AN INDIVIDUAL 14 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER
5 MAKES A SPECIFIC DISCLOSURE TO THE MANDATED REPORTER THAT
6 THE INDIVIDUAL HAS COMMITTED CHILD ABUSE.

7 * * *

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