

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 954 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY STEPHENS AND QUINN, MARCH 17, 2021

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, APRIL 20, 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 SERVICES, further providing for services for <--
9 prevention, 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 AND PURSUANT TO THE CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISIONS UNDER 23 <--
19 PA.C.S. CH. 63 (RELATING TO CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES), a
20 criminal justice agency may disseminate information relating
21 to an allegation or instance of child abuse to a county

1 agency OR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES for the purpose of <--
2 investigating the allegation or instance of abuse or to a
3 children's advocacy center for the purpose of assisting the <--
4 investigation PROVIDING SERVICES TO INVESTIGATING AGENCIES, <--
5 as those terms are defined in 23 Pa.C.S. § 6303 (relating to
6 definitions), or to a multidisciplinary review team,
7 multidisciplinary investigative team or child fatality or
8 near fatality review team for the purposes specified in 23
9 Pa.C.S. § 6365 (relating to services for prevention,
10 investigation and treatment of child abuse).

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

15 * * *

16 Section 2. Section 6365(f) of Title 23 is amended to read:
17 § 6365. Services for prevention, investigation and treatment of
18 child abuse.

19 * * *

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

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