

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



**PA 19-120**—sSB 929  
*Committee on Children*

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL MANDATED REPORTERS, THE DURATION OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT INVESTIGATIONS, CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REGISTRY CHECKS AND THE REPEAL OF CERTAIN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**SUMMARY:** This act adds the following individuals to the statutory list of mandated reporters of suspected child abuse and neglect:

1. those who have regular contact with and provide services to or on behalf of children through a contract with or credential from the Department of Children and Families (DCF),
2. victim services advocates employed by the Judicial Department's Office of Victim Services, and
3. employees of a Court Support Services Division-operated or -contracted juvenile justice program (§ 1).

The act also requires DCF (1) for certain license applicants and DCF vendors, contractors, and employees, to check the child abuse and neglect registry in any state in which the individual resided in the previous five years, (2) for any person 16 or older living in the household of certain license applicants, to check the child abuse and neglect registry in any state in which the person resided in the previous five years, and (3) to comply with any request from a child welfare agency of another state to check the child abuse and neglect registry (§§ 3-5).

Additionally, the act adjusts the time DCF has to complete a child abuse or neglect investigation from 45 calendar days to 33 business days (§ 2).

It also repeals a law requiring DCF to (1) annually report to the Children's Committee on certain at-risk children and youths in its care, including the number and age of runaway or homeless children who are living in psychiatric hospitals and (2) conduct case and service reviews for such children (§ 6).

Lastly, the act repeals an obsolete law requiring DCF to provide written notification to the guardian and attorney of a child committed to DCF care as a delinquent (1) within 10 days of the receipt of a report of suspected abuse or neglect of such a child and (2) within 10 days of the conclusion of a DCF investigation substantiating abuse or neglect (§ 6).

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2019, except that the mandated reporter provision takes effect October 1, 2019.

**CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REGISTRY CHECKS**

*§ 3 — DCF Vendors or Contractors*

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Existing law requires DCF to check the state child abuse and neglect registry for the names of DCF vendors or contractors and their employees who have access to DCF records or clients. The act specifies that this requirement applies to employees who have access to these records or who provide direct services to children or youths in DCF care and custody.

It additionally requires DCF to check the child abuse and neglect registry in any state in which any such vendor, contractor, or employee resided in the previous five years.

Existing law already requires these vendors, contractors, and employees to submit to state and national criminal history records checks.

### *§ 4 — Foster and Adoptive Parents*

The act requires DCF to check the child abuse and neglect registry in any state in which the following individuals resided in the previous five years: any person (1) applying for foster care or adoption licensure or approval and (2) age 16 or older living in such applicant's household. The requirement applies to both initial and renewal applicants.

Existing law requires (1) any such applicant and any person age 16 or older living in the household of such applicant to submit to a state and national criminal history records check and (2) DCF to check the state child abuse and neglect registry for the name of these individuals.

The act specifies that individuals whom a licensed child placing agency approves to adopt are subject to the same requirements as those approved to provide foster care.

### *§ 5 — DCF-Licensed Child Care Facility Employees*

Under existing law, DCF must require applicants for operating DCF-licensed child care facilities and child placing agencies to submit to state and national criminal history records checks. The act extends this requirement to employees of DCF-licensed child care facilities who are age 18 or older. (This does not include day care facilities licensed by the Office of Early Childhood.)

The act additionally requires DCF to check, for any such applicant or employee, the child abuse and neglect registry in any state in which the person resided in the previous five years.

### *Related Act*

PA 19-117 (§§ 157-159) contains identical provisions regarding DCF child abuse and neglect registry checks.