

HOUSE BILL No. 6086

September 16, 1998, Introduced by Rep. LaForge and referred to the Committee on Human Services and Children.

A bill to amend 1975 PA 238, entitled
"Child protection law,"
by amending section 10 (MCL 722.630).

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 10. (1) ~~The court, in every~~ IN EACH case filed under
2 this act in which judicial proceedings are necessary, THE COURT
3 IN WHICH THE CASE IS FILED shall appoint legal counsel to repre-
4 sent the child. The legal counsel, in general, ~~shall be~~ IS
5 charged with the representation of the child's best interests.
6 ~~To that end~~ IN REPRESENTING THE CHILD'S BEST INTERESTS, the
7 attorney shall ~~make further investigation~~ INVESTIGATE FURTHER
8 as he ~~deems~~ OR SHE CONSIDERS necessary to ascertain the facts,
9 AND SHALL interview witnesses, examine witnesses in both the
10 adjudicatory and dispositional hearings, make recommendations to

1 the court, and participate in the proceedings to competently
2 represent the child.

3 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP AND DISTRIBUTE MODEL POLI-
4 CIES REGARDING THE ROLES OF ATTORNEYS AND GUARDIANS AD LITEM IN
5 REPRESENTING CHILDREN IN CASES FILED UNDER THIS ACT, UNDER CHAP-
6 TER XIIIA OF 1939 PA 288, MCL 712A.1 TO 712A.32, AND UNDER SECTION
7 427 OF THE REVISED PROBATE CODE, 1978 PA 642, MCL 700.427. THE
8 DEPARTMENT SHALL USE AS A MODEL FOR THE POLICIES DEVELOPED UNDER
9 THIS SUBSECTION THE STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN'S PUBLICATION ENTITLED
10 "GUIDELINES FOR ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN IN MICHIGAN COURTS".