

HOUSE BILL NO. 5274

August 18, 2021, Introduced by Reps. Meerman, LaGrand, Hood, Stone, Aiyash, Tyrone Carter, Weiss, O'Neal, Anthony, Witwer, Kuppa, Bezotte, Huizenga, Rendon, Maddock, Wozniak and Yancey and referred to the Committee on Families, Children, and Seniors.

A bill to amend 1975 PA 238, entitled
"Child protection law,"
by amending section 8 (MCL 722.628), as amended by 2016 PA 491.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 8. (1) Within 24 hours after receiving a report made
2 under this act, the department ~~shall~~**must** refer the report to the
3 prosecuting attorney and the local law enforcement agency if the
4 report meets the requirements of subsection (3)(a), (b), or (c) or
5 section 3(6) or (9) or ~~shall~~**must** commence an investigation of the

1 child suspected of being abused or neglected. Within 24 hours after
2 receiving a report whether from the reporting person or from the
3 department under subsection (3)(a), (b), or (c) or section 3(6) or
4 (9), the local law enforcement agency ~~shall~~**must** refer the report
5 to the department if the report meets the requirements of section
6 3(7) or ~~shall~~**must** commence an investigation of the child suspected
7 of being abused or neglected or exposed to or who has had contact
8 with methamphetamine production. If the child suspected of being
9 abused or exposed to or who has had contact with methamphetamine
10 production is not in the physical custody of the parent or legal
11 guardian and informing the parent or legal guardian would not
12 endanger the child's health or welfare, the local law enforcement
13 agency or the department ~~shall~~**must** inform the child's parent or
14 legal guardian of the investigation as soon as the local law
15 enforcement agency or the department discovers the identity of the
16 child's parent or legal guardian.

17 (2) In the course of its investigation, the department ~~shall~~
18 **must** determine if the child is abused or neglected. The department
19 ~~shall~~**must** cooperate with law enforcement officials, courts of
20 competent jurisdiction, and appropriate state agencies providing
21 human services in relation to preventing, identifying, and treating
22 child abuse and child neglect; ~~shall~~**must** provide, enlist, and
23 coordinate the necessary services, directly or through ~~the purchase~~
24 ~~of purchasing~~ services from other agencies and professions; and
25 ~~shall~~ take necessary action to prevent further abuses, to safeguard
26 and enhance the child's welfare, and to preserve family life where
27 possible. In the course of an investigation, at the time that a
28 department investigator contacts an individual about whom a report
29 has been made under this act or contacts an individual responsible

1 for the health or welfare of a child about whom a report has been
2 made under this act, the department investigator ~~shall~~**must** advise
3 that individual of the department investigator's name, whom the
4 department investigator represents, and the specific complaints or
5 allegations made against the individual. The department ~~shall~~**must**
6 ensure that its policies, procedures, and administrative rules
7 ensure compliance with ~~the provisions of~~ this act.

8 (3) In conducting its investigation, the department ~~shall~~**must**
9 seek the assistance of and cooperate with law enforcement officials
10 within 24 hours after becoming aware that 1 or more of the
11 following conditions exist:

12 (a) Child abuse or child neglect is the suspected cause of a
13 child's death.

14 (b) The child is the victim of suspected sexual abuse or
15 sexual exploitation.

16 (c) Child abuse or child neglect resulting in severe physical
17 injury to the child. ~~For purposes of this subdivision and section~~
18 ~~17, "severe physical injury" means an injury to the child that~~
19 ~~requires medical treatment or hospitalization and that seriously~~
20 ~~impairs the child's health or physical well-being.~~

21 (d) Law enforcement intervention is necessary for the
22 protection of the child, a department employee, or another person
23 involved in the investigation.

24 (e) The alleged perpetrator of the child's injury is not a
25 person responsible for the child's health or welfare.

26 (f) The child has been exposed to or had contact with
27 methamphetamine production.

28 (4) Law enforcement officials ~~shall~~**must** cooperate with the
29 department in conducting investigations under subsections (1) and

1 (3) and ~~shall~~**must** comply with sections 5 and 7. The department and
2 law enforcement officials ~~shall~~**must** conduct investigations in
3 compliance with the protocols adopted and implemented as required
4 by subsection (6).

5 (5) Involvement of law enforcement officials under this
6 section does not relieve or prevent the department from proceeding
7 with its investigation or treatment if there is reasonable cause to
8 suspect that the child abuse or child neglect was committed by a
9 person responsible for the child's health or welfare.

10 (6) In each county, the prosecuting attorney and the
11 department ~~shall~~**must** develop and establish procedures for
12 involving law enforcement officials and children's advocacy
13 centers, as appropriate, as provided in this section. In each
14 county, the prosecuting attorney and the department ~~shall~~**must**
15 adopt and implement standard child abuse and child neglect
16 investigation and interview protocols using as a model the
17 protocols developed by the governor's task force on children's
18 justice as published in FIA Publication 794 (revised 8-98) and FIA
19 Publication 779 (8-98), or an updated version of those
20 publications.

21 (7) If there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child in
22 the care of or under the control of a public or private agency,
23 institution, or facility is an abused or neglected child, the
24 agency, institution, or facility ~~shall~~**must** be investigated by an
25 agency administratively independent of the agency, institution, or
26 facility being investigated. If the investigation produces evidence
27 of a violation of section 145c or sections 520b to 520g of the
28 Michigan penal code, 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.145c and 750.520b to
29 750.520g, the investigating agency ~~shall~~**must** transmit a copy of

1 the results of the investigation to the prosecuting attorney of the
2 county in which the agency, institution, or facility is located.

3 (8) A school or other institution ~~shall~~**must** cooperate with
4 the department during an investigation of a report of child abuse
5 or child neglect. Cooperation includes allowing access to the child
6 without parental consent if access is determined by the department
7 to be necessary to complete the investigation or to prevent child
8 abuse or child neglect of the child. The department ~~shall~~**must**
9 notify the person responsible for the child's health or welfare
10 about the department's contact with the child at the time or as
11 soon afterward as the person can be reached. The department may
12 delay the notice if the notice would compromise the safety of the
13 child or child's siblings or the integrity of the investigation,
14 but only for the time 1 of those conditions exists.

15 (9) If the department has contact with a child in a school,
16 all of the following apply:

17 (a) Before contact with the child, the department investigator
18 ~~shall~~**must** review with the designated school staff person the
19 department's responsibilities under this act and the investigation
20 procedure.

21 (b) After contact with the child, the department investigator
22 ~~shall~~**must** meet with the designated school staff person and the
23 child about the response the department will take as a result of
24 contact with the child. The department may also meet with the
25 designated school staff person without the child present and share
26 additional information the investigator determines may be shared
27 subject to the confidentiality provisions of this act.

28 (c) Lack of cooperation by the school does not relieve or
29 prevent the department from proceeding with its responsibilities

1 under this act.

2 (10) A child ~~shall~~**must** not be subjected to a search at a
3 school that requires the child to remove his or her clothing to
4 expose his buttocks or genitalia or her breasts, buttocks, or
5 genitalia unless the department has obtained an order from a court
6 of competent jurisdiction permitting ~~such a~~**that** search. If the
7 access occurs within a hospital, the investigation ~~shall~~**must** be
8 conducted so as not to interfere with the medical treatment of the
9 child or other patients.

10 (11) The department ~~shall~~**must** enter each report made under
11 this act that is the subject of a field investigation into the ~~CPSI~~
12 **electronic case management** system. The department ~~shall~~**must**
13 maintain a report entered on the ~~CPSI~~**electronic case management**
14 system as required by this subsection until the child about whom
15 the investigation is made is 18 years old or until 10 years after
16 the investigation is commenced, whichever is later, or, if the case
17 is classified as a central registry case, until the department
18 receives reliable information that the perpetrator of the child
19 abuse or child neglect is dead. Unless made public as specified
20 information released under section 7d, a report that is maintained
21 on the ~~CPSI~~**electronic case management** system is confidential and
22 is not subject to the disclosure requirements of the freedom of
23 information act, 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231 to 15.246.

24 (12) After completing a field investigation and based on its
25 results, the department ~~shall~~**must** determine in which single
26 category, prescribed by section 8d, to classify the allegation of
27 child abuse or child neglect **and determine whether the child abuse**
28 **or child neglect must be classified as a central registry case.**

29 (13) A person who is the subject of a report or record made

1 under this section in which the violation does not result in being
2 placed on the central registry, but is categorized as a category I,
3 II, or III case under section 8d, may request the department amend
4 or expunge an inaccurate report or record from the local office
5 file. Within 30 days after the classification of a substantiated
6 case that does not result in being placed on the central registry,
7 the department must notify in writing each person who is named in
8 the report or record as a perpetrator of confirmed serious abuse or
9 neglect. This notice requirement includes all the following:

10 (a) Must be sent by first-class mail to the identified
11 perpetrator.

12 (b) Must set forth the person's right to request expunction of
13 the record and the right to an administrative review conducted by
14 the department.

15 (c) Must state that the record may be released under section
16 7d, and may impact future employment or licensing opportunities.

17 (d) Must not identify the person reporting the suspected child
18 abuse or child neglect.

19 (14) The request described in subsection (13) must be made
20 within 180 days after the date of service of notice of a confirmed
21 case of serious abuse or neglect. The department may, for good
22 cause, extend the time frame for the request after the 180-day
23 notice if the department determines that the person who is the
24 subject of the report or record submitted the request for an
25 administrative review within 60 days after the 180-day notice
26 period expired. The department must create an administrative
27 process to determine whether the report or record should be amended
28 or expunged.

29 (15) ~~(13)~~ Except as provided in subsection ~~(14)~~, (16), upon

1 completion of the investigation by the local law enforcement agency
2 or the department, the law enforcement agency or department may
3 inform the person who made the report as to the disposition of the
4 report.

5 **(16)** ~~(14)~~ If the person who made the report is mandated to
6 report under section 3, upon completion of the investigation by the
7 department, the department ~~shall~~**must** inform the person in writing
8 as to the disposition of the case and ~~shall~~**must** include in the
9 information at least all of the following:

10 (a) What determination the department made under subsection
11 (12) and the rationale for that decision.

12 (b) Whether legal action was commenced and, if so, the nature
13 of that action.

14 (c) Notification that the information being conveyed is
15 confidential.

16 **(17)** ~~(15)~~ Information sent under subsection ~~(14)~~ ~~shall~~ **(16)**
17 **must** not include personally identifying information for a person
18 named in a report or record made under this act.

19 **(18)** ~~(16)~~ Unless section 5 of chapter XII of the probate code
20 of 1939, 1939 PA 288, MCL 712.5, requires a physician to report to
21 the department, the surrender of a newborn in compliance with
22 chapter XII of the probate code of 1939, 1939 PA 288, MCL 712.1 to
23 712.20, is not reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or child
24 neglect and is not subject to the section 3 reporting requirement.
25 This subsection does not apply to circumstances that arise on or
26 after the date that chapter XII of the probate code of 1939, 1939
27 PA 288, MCL 712.1 to 712.20, is repealed. This subsection applies
28 to a newborn whose birth is described in the born alive infant
29 protection act, 2002 PA 687, MCL 333.1071 to 333.1073, and who is

1 considered to be a newborn surrendered under the safe delivery of
2 newborns law as provided in section 3 of chapter XII of the probate
3 code of 1939, 1939 PA 288, MCL 712.3.

4 (19) ~~(17)~~ All department employees involved in investigating
5 child abuse or child neglect cases ~~shall~~ **must** be trained in the
6 legal duties to protect the state and federal constitutional and
7 statutory rights of children and families from the initial contact
8 of an investigation through the time services are provided.

9 (20) ~~(18)~~ The department ~~shall~~ **must** determine whether there is
10 an open friend of the court case regarding a child who is suspected
11 of being abused or neglected if a child protective services
12 investigation of child abuse and child neglect allegations result
13 in any of the following dispositions:

14 (a) A finding that a preponderance of evidence indicates that
15 there has been child abuse or child neglect.

16 (b) Emergency removal of the child for child abuse or child
17 neglect before the investigation is completed.

18 (c) The family court takes jurisdiction on a petition and a
19 child is maintained in his or her own home under the supervision of
20 the department.

21 (d) If 1 or more children residing in the home are removed and
22 1 or more children remain in the home.

23 (e) Any other circumstances that the department determines are
24 applicable and related to child safety.

25 (21) ~~(19)~~ If the department determines that there is an open
26 friend of the court case and the provisions of subsection ~~(18)~~ **(20)**
27 apply, the department ~~shall~~ **must** notify the office of the friend of
28 the court in the county in which the friend of the court case is
29 open that there is an investigation being conducted under this act

1 regarding that child and ~~shall~~**must** also report to the local friend
 2 of the court office when there is a change in that child's
 3 placement.

4 (22) ~~(20)~~—Child protective services may report to the local
 5 friend of the court office any situation in which a parent, more
 6 than 3 times within 1 year or on 5 cumulative reports over several
 7 years, made unfounded reports to child protective services
 8 regarding alleged child abuse or child neglect of his or her child.

9 (23) ~~(21)~~—If the department determines that there is an open
 10 friend of the court case, the department ~~shall~~**must** provide
 11 noncustodial ~~parents~~**parent** of a child who is suspected of being
 12 abused or neglected with the form developed by the department that
 13 has information on how to change a custody or parenting time court
 14 order.

15 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 180 days
 16 after the date it is enacted into law.

17 Enacting section 2. This amendatory act does not take effect
 18 unless all of the following bills of the 101st Legislature are
 19 enacted into law:

20 (a) Senate Bill No.____ or House Bill No. 5276 (request no.
 21 00901'21).

22 (b) Senate Bill No.____ or House Bill No. 5277 (request no.
 23 03590'21).

24 (c) Senate Bill No.____ or House Bill No. 5278 (request no.
 25 03591'21).

26 (d) Senate Bill No.____ or House Bill No. 5275 (request no.
 27 03592'21).