
SENATE BILL 5127

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl-Welles, Hargrove, Long, Heavey, McCaslin, Stevens, Zarelli, Prentice, Kline, Winsley and Costa

Read first time 01/13/1999. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to investigations of abuse or neglect; adding a new
2 section to chapter 26.44 RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the parent,
5 guardian, or foster parent of a child who may be the victim of abuse or
6 neglect may become involved in the investigation of the abuse or
7 neglect. The parent, guardian, or foster parent may also be made a
8 party to later court proceedings and be subject to a court-ordered
9 examination by a physician, psychologist, or psychiatrist. It is the
10 intent of the legislature to avoid actual or perceived conflicts of
11 interest that may occur when the parent, guardian, or foster parent is
12 also a law enforcement officer and is assigned to conduct the
13 investigation of alleged abuse or neglect concerning the child.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 26.44 RCW
15 to read as follows:

16 A law enforcement agency shall not allow a law enforcement officer
17 to participate as an investigator in the investigation of alleged abuse
18 or neglect concerning a child for whom the law enforcement officer is,

1 or within the preceding six months has been, a parent, guardian, or
2 foster parent. This section is not intended to limit the authority or
3 duty of a law enforcement officer to report, testify, or be examined as
4 authorized or required by this chapter, or to perform other official
5 duties as a law enforcement officer.

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