

HJM 4012 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Children & Family Services & Corrections

ADOPTED 04/15/2003

1 On page 1, line 2, after "STATE" strike the remainder of the
2 memorial and insert "AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL
3 AND HEALTH SERVICES:

4 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
5 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
6 represent and petition as follows:

7 WHEREAS, The effect of child sexual abuse on victims is devastating
8 and the subsequent investigation, prosecution, and advocacy involving
9 child victims should be implemented in a manner so as to not further
10 traumatize victims;

11 WHEREAS, State guidelines and protocols have been established
12 pursuant to chapter 389, Laws of 1999 (Senate Bill No. 5127); and

13 WHEREAS, Children's Advocacy Centers are a multidisciplinary
14 private-public partnership designed to improve outcomes for child
15 victims of sexual abuse; and

16 WHEREAS, The purposes of Children's Advocacy Centers are to:

17 (1) Develop, achieve, and maintain interagency and
18 interprofessional cooperation and coordination in the investigation,
19 treatment, and prosecution of intrafamilial and extrafamilial child
20 sexual abuse cases;

21 (2) Obtain evidence useful for both criminal prosecution as well as
22 protection action in civil proceedings;

23 (3) Reduce to the absolute minimum the number of interviews of
24 child sexual abuse victims so as to minimize revictimization of the
25 child;

26 (4) Coordinate the medical and therapeutic treatment program for
27 child sexual abuse victims and their nonoffending family members;

28 (5) Provide for a multidisciplinary team and case management
29 approach which is focused first on the alleged or suspected child
30 sexual abuse victim's needs and conditions, second on the family
31 members who are supportive of the child and whose interests are

1 consistent with the best interests of the child, and third on law
2 enforcement and prosecutorial needs;

3 (6) Provide for training and continued education of skilled
4 professional interviewers and investigators of child sexual abuse
5 victims; and

6 (7) Serve as a focus of information and referral for child sexual
7 abuse; and

8 WHEREAS, In recognition that child abuse is a complex problem,
9 Children's Advocacy Centers may also investigate cases involving other
10 forms of child abuse and neglect;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully encourage counties,
12 local governments, and the Department of Social and Health Services to
13 help facilitate the creation and operation of Children's Advocacy
14 Centers which are members of the National Children's Alliance, and to
15 help ensure the participation of their relevant employees in these
16 Centers, to improve outcomes for child victims of sexual abuse;

17 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
18 transmitted to the legislative authorities of the counties and local
19 governments of Washington State and to the Secretary of the Department
20 of Social and Health Services."

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