5 6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13 14

15

16

17 18

19 20

21

2.2

23

## 2SSB 6206 - H COMM AMD By Committee on Appropriations

## ADOPTED 03/05/2008

Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the 1 2. following:

- "Sec. 1. RCW 74.13.640 and 2004 c 36 s 1 are each amended to read 3 4 as follows:
  - (1) The department of social and health services shall conduct a child fatality review in the event of an unexpected death of a minor in the state who is in the care of or receiving services described in chapter 74.13 RCW from the department or who has been in the care of or received services described in chapter 74.13 RCW from the department within one year preceding the minor's death.
  - (2) Upon conclusion of a child fatality review required pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, the department shall within one hundred eighty days following the fatality issue a report on the results of the review to the appropriate committees of the legislature and shall make copies of the report available to the public upon request, unless an extension has been granted by the governor.
  - (3) The department shall develop and implement procedures to carry out the requirements of subsections (1) and (2) of this section.
  - (4) In the event a child fatality is the result of apparent abuse or neglect by the child's parent or caregiver, the department shall ensure that the fatality review team is comprised of individuals who had no previous involvement in the case and whose professional expertise is pertinent to the dynamics of the case.
- (5) In the event of a near-fatality of a child who is in the care 24 of or receiving services described in this chapter from the department 25 26 or who has been in the care of or received services described in this chapter from the department within one year preceding the 27 near-fatality, the department shall promptly notify the office of the 28 family and children's ombudsman. 29

- NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 43.06A RCW 1 2 to read as follows:
- The office of the family and children's ombudsman shall issue an 3 annual report to the legislature on the status of the implementation of 4 5 child fatality review recommendations.
- 6 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.06A.100 and 1999 c 390 s 5 are each amended to read 7 as follows:
- The department of social and health services shall: 8

12

13

14 15

16

17

18

19

- (1) Allow the ombudsman or the ombudsman's designee to communicate 9 privately with any child in the custody of the department for the 10 purposes of carrying out its duties under this chapter; 11
  - (2) Permit the ombudsman or the ombudsman's designee physical access to state institutions serving children, and state licensed facilities or residences for the purpose of carrying out its duties under this chapter;
    - (3) Upon the ombudsman's request, grant the ombudsman or the ombudsman's designee the right to access, inspect, and copy all relevant information, records, or documents in the possession or control of the department that the ombudsman considers necessary in an investigation; and
- 21 (4) Grant the office of the family and children's ombudsman unrestricted on-line access to the case and management information 22 system (CAMIS) or any successor information system for the purpose of 23 24 carrying out its duties under this chapter.
- 25 **Sec. 4.** RCW 26.44.030 and 2007 c 387 s 3 are each amended to read 26 as follows:
- (1)(a) When any practitioner, county coroner or medical examiner, 27 law enforcement officer, professional school personnel, registered or 28 29 licensed nurse, social service counselor, psychologist, pharmacist, employee of the department of early learning, licensed or certified 30 child care providers or their employees, employee of the department, 31 juvenile probation officer, placement and liaison specialist, 32 responsible living skills program staff, HOPE center staff, or state 33 34 family and children's ombudsman or any volunteer in the ombudsman's 35 office has reasonable cause to believe that a child has suffered abuse

or neglect, he or she shall report such incident, or cause a report to be made, to the proper law enforcement agency or to the department as provided in RCW 26.44.040.

1 2

(b) When any person, in his or her official supervisory capacity with a nonprofit or for-profit organization, has reasonable cause to believe that a child has suffered abuse or neglect caused by a person over whom he or she regularly exercises supervisory authority, he or she shall report such incident, or cause a report to be made, to the proper law enforcement agency, provided that the person alleged to have caused the abuse or neglect is employed by, contracted by, or volunteers with the organization and coaches, trains, educates, or counsels a child or children or regularly has unsupervised access to a child or children as part of the employment, contract, or voluntary service. No one shall be required to report under this section when he or she obtains the information solely as a result of a privileged communication as provided in RCW 5.60.060.

Nothing in this subsection (1)(b) shall limit a person's duty to report under (a) of this subsection.

For the purposes of this subsection, the following definitions apply:

- (i) "Official supervisory capacity" means a position, status, or role created, recognized, or designated by any nonprofit or for-profit organization, either for financial gain or without financial gain, whose scope includes, but is not limited to, overseeing, directing, or managing another person who is employed by, contracted by, or volunteers with the nonprofit or for-profit organization.
- (ii) "Regularly exercises supervisory authority" means to act in his or her official supervisory capacity on an ongoing or continuing basis with regards to a particular person.
- (c) The reporting requirement also applies to department of corrections personnel who, in the course of their employment, observe offenders or the children with whom the offenders are in contact. If, as a result of observations or information received in the course of his or her employment, any department of corrections personnel has reasonable cause to believe that a child has suffered abuse or neglect, he or she shall report the incident, or cause a report to be made, to the proper law enforcement agency or to the department as provided in RCW 26.44.040.

(d) The reporting requirement shall also apply to any adult who has reasonable cause to believe that a child who resides with them, has suffered severe abuse, and is able or capable of making a report. For the purposes of this subsection, "severe abuse" means any of the following: Any single act of abuse that causes physical trauma of sufficient severity that, if left untreated, could cause death; any single act of sexual abuse that causes significant bleeding, deep bruising, or significant external or internal swelling; or more than one act of physical abuse, each of which causes bleeding, deep bruising, significant external or internal swelling, bone fracture, or unconsciousness.

1 2

3

4

5

6 7

8

9 10

11 12

13

14

15 16

17

18

19

20 21

22

23 24

25

26 27

28

29

30 31

32

33

34

35

36 37

- (e) The report must be made at the first opportunity, but in no case longer than forty-eight hours after there is reasonable cause to believe that the child has suffered abuse or neglect. The report must include the identity of the accused if known.
- (2) The reporting requirement of subsection (1) of this section does not apply to the discovery of abuse or neglect that occurred during childhood if it is discovered after the child has become an adult. However, if there is reasonable cause to believe other children are or may be at risk of abuse or neglect by the accused, the reporting requirement of subsection (1) of this section does apply.
- (3) Any other person who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has suffered abuse or neglect may report such incident to the proper law enforcement agency or to the department of social and health services as provided in RCW 26.44.040.
- (4) The department, upon receiving a report of an incident of alleged abuse or neglect pursuant to this chapter, involving a child who has died or has had physical injury or injuries inflicted upon him or her other than by accidental means or who has been subjected to alleged sexual abuse, shall report such incident to the proper law enforcement agency. In emergency cases, where the child's welfare is endangered, the department shall notify the proper law enforcement agency within twenty-four hours after a report is received by the department. In all other cases, the department shall notify the law enforcement agency within seventy-two hours after a report is received by the department. If the department makes an oral report, a written report must also be made to the proper law enforcement agency within five days thereafter.

(5) Any law enforcement agency receiving a report of an incident of alleged abuse or neglect pursuant to this chapter, involving a child who has died or has had physical injury or injuries inflicted upon him or her other than by accidental means, or who has been subjected to alleged sexual abuse, shall report such incident in writing as provided in RCW 26.44.040 to the proper county prosecutor or city attorney for appropriate action whenever the law enforcement agency's investigation reveals that a crime may have been committed. The law enforcement agency shall also notify the department of all reports received and the law enforcement agency's disposition of them. In emergency cases, where the child's welfare is endangered, the law enforcement agency shall notify the department within twenty-four hours. In all other cases, the law enforcement agency shall notify the department within seventy-two hours after a report is received by the law enforcement agency.

1 2

3

4

5

6 7

8

9

10

11

1213

14

15

16

17

18

19

2021

22

2324

25

2627

28

29

30

3132

33

34

35

3637

- (6) Any county prosecutor or city attorney receiving a report under subsection (5) of this section shall notify the victim, any persons the victim requests, and the local office of the department, of the decision to charge or decline to charge a crime, within five days of making the decision.
- (7) The department may conduct ongoing case planning and consultation with those persons or agencies required to report under this section, with consultants designated by the department, and with designated representatives of Washington Indian tribes if the client information exchanged is pertinent to cases currently receiving child protective services. Upon request, the department shall conduct such planning and consultation with those persons required to report under this section if the department determines it is in the best interests of the child. Information considered privileged by statute and not directly related to reports required by this section must not be divulged without a valid written waiver of the privilege.
- (8) Any case referred to the department by a physician licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW on the basis of an expert medical opinion that child abuse, neglect, or sexual assault has occurred and that the child's safety will be seriously endangered if returned home, the department shall file a dependency petition unless a second licensed physician of the parents' choice believes that such expert medical opinion is incorrect. If the parents fail to designate a

second physician, the department may make the selection. physician finds that a child has suffered abuse or neglect but that such abuse or neglect does not constitute imminent danger to the child's health or safety, and the department agrees with the physician's assessment, the child may be left in the parents' home while the department proceeds with reasonable efforts to remedy parenting deficiencies.

1 2

3

4

5

6 7

8

9 10

11 12

13

14

15

16 17

18

19

20 21

22

23 24

25

26 27

28

29

30

31 32

33

34 35

36

37

- (9) Persons or agencies exchanging information under subsection (7) this section shall not further disseminate or release the information except as authorized by state or federal statute. Violation of this subsection is a misdemeanor.
- (10) Upon receiving reports of alleged abuse or neglect, the department or law enforcement agency may interview children. The interviews may be conducted on school premises, at day-care facilities, at the child's home, or at other suitable locations outside of the presence of parents. Parental notification of the interview must occur at the earliest possible point in the investigation that will not jeopardize the safety or protection of the child or the course of the investigation. Prior to commencing the interview the department or law enforcement agency shall determine whether the child wishes a third party to be present for the interview and, if so, shall make reasonable efforts to accommodate the child's wishes. Unless the child objects, the department or law enforcement agency shall make reasonable efforts to include a third party in any interview so long as the presence of the third party will not jeopardize the course of the investigation.
- (11) Upon receiving a report of alleged child abuse and neglect, the department or investigating law enforcement agency shall have access to all relevant records of the child in the possession of mandated reporters and their employees.
- (12) In investigating and responding to allegations of child abuse and neglect, the department may conduct background checks as authorized by state and federal law.
- (13) If a report of alleged abuse or neglect is founded and constitutes the third founded report received by the department within the last twelve months involving the same child or family, the department shall promptly notify the office of the family and children's ombudsman of the contents of the report. The department shall also notify the ombudsman of the disposition of the report.

(14) The department shall maintain investigation records and conduct timely and periodic reviews of all cases constituting abuse and neglect. The department shall maintain a log of screened-out nonabusive cases.

1 2

 $((\frac{14}{14}))$  (15) The department shall use a risk assessment process when investigating alleged child abuse and neglect referrals. The department shall present the risk factors at all hearings in which the placement of a dependent child is an issue. Substance abuse must be a risk factor. The department shall, within funds appropriated for this purpose, offer enhanced community-based services to persons who are determined not to require further state intervention.

(((15))) (16) Upon receipt of a report of alleged abuse or neglect the law enforcement agency may arrange to interview the person making the report and any collateral sources to determine if any malice is involved in the reporting.

((\(\frac{(16\)}\))) (17) The department shall make reasonable efforts to learn the name, address, and telephone number of each person making a report of abuse or neglect under this section. The department shall provide assurances of appropriate confidentiality of the identification of persons reporting under this section. If the department is unable to learn the information required under this subsection, the department shall only investigate cases in which: (a) The department believes there is a serious threat of substantial harm to the child; (b) the report indicates conduct involving a criminal offense that has, or is about to occur, in which the child is the victim; or (c) the department has, after investigation, a report of abuse or neglect that has been founded with regard to a member of the household within three years of receipt of the referral.

(18) Upon receiving a report of alleged abuse or neglect involving a child under the court's jurisdiction under chapter 13.34 RCW, the department shall promptly notify the child's quardian ad litem of the report's contents. The department shall also notify the quardian ad litem of the disposition of the report. For purposes of this subsection, "guardian ad litem" has the meaning provided in RCW 13.34.030.

**Sec. 5.** RCW 26.44.030 and 2007 c 387 s 3 and 2007 c 220 s 2 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(1)(a) When any practitioner, county coroner or medical examiner, law enforcement officer, professional school personnel, registered or licensed nurse, social service counselor, psychologist, pharmacist, employee of the department of early learning, licensed or certified child care providers or their employees, employee of the department, probation officer, placement and liaison responsible living skills program staff, HOPE center staff, or state family and children's ombudsman or any volunteer in the ombudsman's office has reasonable cause to believe that a child has suffered abuse or neglect, he or she shall report such incident, or cause a report to be made, to the proper law enforcement agency or to the department as provided in RCW 26.44.040.

1 2

3

4

5

6 7

8

9 10

11 12

13

14

15

16 17

18

19

20 21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28 29

30 31

32

33

34

35

(b) When any person, in his or her official supervisory capacity with a nonprofit or for-profit organization, has reasonable cause to believe that a child has suffered abuse or neglect caused by a person over whom he or she regularly exercises supervisory authority, he or she shall report such incident, or cause a report to be made, to the proper law enforcement agency, provided that the person alleged to have caused the abuse or neglect is employed by, contracted by, volunteers with the organization and coaches, trains, educates, or counsels a child or children or regularly has unsupervised access to a child or children as part of the employment, contract, or voluntary service. No one shall be required to report under this section when he or she obtains the information solely as a result of a privileged communication as provided in RCW 5.60.060.

Nothing in this subsection (1)(b) shall limit a person's duty to report under (a) of this subsection.

For the purposes of this subsection, the following definitions apply:

- (i) "Official supervisory capacity" means a position, status, or role created, recognized, or designated by any nonprofit or for-profit organization, either for financial gain or without financial gain, whose scope includes, but is not limited to, overseeing, directing, or managing another person who is employed by, contracted by, volunteers with the nonprofit or for-profit organization.
- (ii) "Regularly exercises supervisory authority" means to act in 36 37 his or her official supervisory capacity on an ongoing or continuing 38 basis with regards to a particular person.

(c) The reporting requirement also applies to department of corrections personnel who, in the course of their employment, observe offenders or the children with whom the offenders are in contact. If, as a result of observations or information received in the course of his or her employment, any department of corrections personnel has reasonable cause to believe that a child has suffered abuse or neglect, he or she shall report the incident, or cause a report to be made, to the proper law enforcement agency or to the department as provided in RCW 26.44.040.

1 2

- (d) The reporting requirement shall also apply to any adult who has reasonable cause to believe that a child who resides with them, has suffered severe abuse, and is able or capable of making a report. For the purposes of this subsection, "severe abuse" means any of the following: Any single act of abuse that causes physical trauma of sufficient severity that, if left untreated, could cause death; any single act of sexual abuse that causes significant bleeding, deep bruising, or significant external or internal swelling; or more than one act of physical abuse, each of which causes bleeding, deep bruising, significant external or internal swelling, bone fracture, or unconsciousness.
- (e) The report must be made at the first opportunity, but in no case longer than forty-eight hours after there is reasonable cause to believe that the child has suffered abuse or neglect. The report must include the identity of the accused if known.
- (2) The reporting requirement of subsection (1) of this section does not apply to the discovery of abuse or neglect that occurred during childhood if it is discovered after the child has become an adult. However, if there is reasonable cause to believe other children are or may be at risk of abuse or neglect by the accused, the reporting requirement of subsection (1) of this section does apply.
- (3) Any other person who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has suffered abuse or neglect may report such incident to the proper law enforcement agency or to the department of social and health services as provided in RCW 26.44.040.
- (4) The department, upon receiving a report of an incident of alleged abuse or neglect pursuant to this chapter, involving a child who has died or has had physical injury or injuries inflicted upon him or her other than by accidental means or who has been subjected to

alleged sexual abuse, shall report such incident to the proper law enforcement agency. In emergency cases, where the child's welfare is endangered, the department shall notify the proper law enforcement agency within twenty-four hours after a report is received by the department. In all other cases, the department shall notify the law enforcement agency within seventy-two hours after a report is received by the department. If the department makes an oral report, a written report must also be made to the proper law enforcement agency within five days thereafter.

1

3

4

5

6 7

8

9

11

1213

14

15

16 17

18

19

2021

22

2324

25

2627

28

29

30

3132

33

34

35

- (5) Any law enforcement agency receiving a report of an incident of alleged abuse or neglect pursuant to this chapter, involving a child who has died or has had physical injury or injuries inflicted upon him or her other than by accidental means, or who has been subjected to alleged sexual abuse, shall report such incident in writing as provided in RCW 26.44.040 to the proper county prosecutor or city attorney for appropriate action whenever the law enforcement agency's investigation reveals that a crime may have been committed. The law enforcement agency shall also notify the department of all reports received and the law enforcement agency's disposition of them. In emergency cases, where the child's welfare is endangered, the law enforcement agency shall notify the department within twenty-four hours. In all other cases, the law enforcement agency shall notify the department within seventy-two hours after a report is received by the law enforcement agency.
- (6) Any county prosecutor or city attorney receiving a report under subsection (5) of this section shall notify the victim, any persons the victim requests, and the local office of the department, of the decision to charge or decline to charge a crime, within five days of making the decision.
- (7) The department may conduct ongoing case planning and consultation with those persons or agencies required to report under this section, with consultants designated by the department, and with designated representatives of Washington Indian tribes if the client information exchanged is pertinent to cases currently receiving child protective services. Upon request, the department shall conduct such planning and consultation with those persons required to report under this section if the department determines it is in the best interests

of the child. Information considered privileged by statute and not directly related to reports required by this section must not be divulged without a valid written waiver of the privilege.

1 2

3

18

19

20 21

22

23 24

25

26 27

28

29

32

33

34

35

- (8) Any case referred to the department by a physician licensed 4 under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW on the basis of an expert medical 5 opinion that child abuse, neglect, or sexual assault has occurred and 6 7 that the child's safety will be seriously endangered if returned home, the department shall file a dependency petition unless a second 8 licensed physician of the parents' choice believes that such expert 9 medical opinion is incorrect. If the parents fail to designate a 10 second physician, the department may make the selection. 11 physician finds that a child has suffered abuse or neglect but that 12 such abuse or neglect does not constitute imminent danger to the 13 child's health or safety, and the department agrees with the 14 physician's assessment, the child may be left in the parents' home 15 while the department proceeds with reasonable efforts to remedy 16 17 parenting deficiencies.
  - (9) Persons or agencies exchanging information under subsection (7) of this section shall not further disseminate or release the information except as authorized by state or federal statute. Violation of this subsection is a misdemeanor.
  - (10) Upon receiving a report of alleged abuse or neglect, the department shall make reasonable efforts to learn the name, address, and telephone number of each person making a report of abuse or neglect under this section. The department shall provide assurances of appropriate confidentiality of the identification of persons reporting under this section. If the department is unable to learn the information required under this subsection, the department shall only investigate cases in which:
- The department believes there is a serious threat 30 of 31 substantial harm to the child;
  - (b) The report indicates conduct involving a criminal offense that has, or is about to occur, in which the child is the victim; or
  - (c) The department has a prior founded report of abuse or neglect with regard to a member of the household that is within three years of receipt of the referral.
- 37 (11)(a) For reports of alleged abuse or neglect that are accepted 38 for investigation by the department, the investigation shall be

conducted within time frames established by the department in rule. In no case shall the investigation extend longer than ninety days from the date the report is received, unless the investigation is being conducted under a written protocol pursuant to RCW 26.44.180 and a law enforcement agency or prosecuting attorney has determined that a longer investigation period is necessary. At the completion of the investigation, the department shall make a finding that the report of child abuse or neglect is founded or unfounded.

1 2

- (b) If a court in a civil or criminal proceeding, considering the same facts or circumstances as are contained in the report being investigated by the department, makes a judicial finding by a preponderance of the evidence or higher that the subject of the pending investigation has abused or neglected the child, the department shall adopt the finding in its investigation.
- (12) In conducting an investigation of alleged abuse or neglect, the department or law enforcement agency:
- (a) May interview children. The interviews may be conducted on school premises, at day-care facilities, at the child's home, or at other suitable locations outside of the presence of parents. Parental notification of the interview must occur at the earliest possible point in the investigation that will not jeopardize the safety or protection of the child or the course of the investigation. Prior to commencing the interview the department or law enforcement agency shall determine whether the child wishes a third party to be present for the interview and, if so, shall make reasonable efforts to accommodate the child's wishes. Unless the child objects, the department or law enforcement agency shall make reasonable efforts to include a third party in any interview so long as the presence of the third party will not jeopardize the course of the investigation; and
- (b) Shall have access to all relevant records of the child in the possession of mandated reporters and their employees.
- (13) If a report of alleged abuse or neglect is founded and constitutes the third founded report received by the department within the last twelve months involving the same child or family, the department shall promptly notify the office of the family and children's ombudsman of the contents of the report. The department shall also notify the ombudsman of the disposition of the report.

(14) In investigating and responding to allegations of child abuse and neglect, the department may conduct background checks as authorized by state and federal law.

 $((\frac{14}{1}))$  (15) The department shall maintain investigation records and conduct timely and periodic reviews of all founded cases of abuse and neglect. The department shall maintain a log of screened-out nonabusive cases.

 $((\frac{(15)}{(15)}))$  (16) The department shall use a risk assessment process when investigating alleged child abuse and neglect referrals. The department shall present the risk factors at all hearings in which the placement of a dependent child is an issue. Substance abuse must be a risk factor. The department shall, within funds appropriated for this purpose, offer enhanced community-based services to persons who are determined not to require further state intervention.

(((16))) (17) Upon receipt of a report of alleged abuse or neglect the law enforcement agency may arrange to interview the person making the report and any collateral sources to determine if any malice is involved in the reporting.

(18) Upon receiving a report of alleged abuse or neglect involving a child under the court's jurisdiction under chapter 13.34 RCW, the department shall promptly notify the child's quardian ad litem of the report's contents. The department shall also notify the quardian ad litem of the disposition of the report. For purposes of this subsection, "quardian ad litem" has the meaning provided in RCW 13.34.030.

<u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 43.06A RCW to read as follows:

The ombudsman shall analyze a random sampling of referrals made by mandated reporters during 2006 and 2007 and report to the appropriate committees of the legislature on the following: The number and types of referrals from mandated reporters; the disposition of the referrals by category of mandated reporters; how many referrals resulted in the filing of dependency actions; any patterns established by the department in how it dealt with such referrals; whether the history of fatalities in 2006 and 2007 showed referrals by mandated reporters; and any other information the ombudsman deems relevant. The ombudsman may

- contract for all or a portion of the tasks essential to completing the 1
- 2 analysis and report required under this section. The report is due no
- later than June 30, 2009. 3
- 4 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 7.** Section 4 of this act expires October 1,
- 5 2008.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. Section 5 of this act takes effect October 6
- 1, 2008. 7
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 9. If specific funding for the purposes of this 8
- act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by 9
- June 30, 2008, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and 10
- void." 11
- 12 Correct the title.

--- END ---