



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

Raised Bill No. 301

LCO No. 1332

01332_____KID

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:
(KID)

AN ACT CONCERNING FORMAL EVALUATION OF THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN PLACED IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17a-151aa of the general statutes is repealed and
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) Any state agency that places a child, as defined in section 17a-93,
4 in a residential facility shall enter into a written agreement with the
5 facility at the time of the placement. Such written agreement shall
6 establish clear standards for the child's care and treatment, including,
7 but not limited to, requirements for monthly written reports
8 concerning the child's care and treatment, addressed to the case
9 worker overseeing the child's placement. The monthly written reports
10 shall set forth child-specific goals and expectations for treatment and
11 progress. The written agreement shall require the facility to report
12 promptly to the placing agency any allegation that the child is abused
13 or neglected, as defined in section 46b-120, or any incident of abuse or
14 neglect of an individual placed in the facility. The placing agency shall
15 ensure that a discharge plan is initiated within two weeks of the child's
16 placement in the facility.

17 (b) Any child that is placed by a state agency in a residential facility
18 for the first time shall be formally evaluated by an independent
19 clinician not later than six months after placement to determine
20 whether such placement is meeting the needs of the child and
21 improving the child's ability to live in a less restrictive setting. Such
22 evaluation shall include a written description of any additional
23 services required to prepare the child to return home or to a less
24 restrictive community setting. The state agency and the residential
25 facility shall develop a written plan for the provision of any such
26 additional services. If a child has been in a residential facility for more
27 than one year, the child shall receive an independent, comprehensive
28 and culturally competent multi-disciplinary evaluation at least every
29 three months to determine if services being provided to the child are
30 meeting the child's needs. The form and implementation of such
31 evaluation shall be approved by the Office of the Child Advocate.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To ensure children placed in residential facilities receive regular outside evaluations so they do not remain in residential treatment when their needs may be more appropriately met in less restrictive settings.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]