



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Proposed Bill No. 5980

LCO No. 1774

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:

REP. WALKER, 93rd Dist.

SEN. HARP, 10th Dist.

REP. DILLON, 92nd Dist.

**AN ACT CONCERNING VERIFICATION OF INFORMATION BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN CHILD ABUSE AND
NEGLECT CASES.**

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

1 That chapters 319a and 815t of the general statutes be amended to:
2 (1) Require the Department of Children and Families to obtain
3 documentation to verify the truth of allegations of child abuse or
4 neglect prior to initiating an investigation; (2) require a probation
5 officer, who has been referred a complaint of a family with service
6 needs according to section 46b-149 of the general statutes, to promptly
7 obtain documentation to determine whether or not the allegations
8 contained in the complaint are true, accurate and sufficient to
9 constitute a family with service needs as defined in subdivision (8) of
10 section 46b-120 of the general statutes; (3) require a probation officer,
11 who has been referred such a complaint and has verified the truth of
12 the allegations, to promptly refer the child and the child's family to a
13 suitable community-based program, other service provider or family
14 support center for voluntary services; (4) prohibit a refusal to

15 participate in such voluntary services to be used as the basis for
16 finding that the child has been neglected or abused, that the child and
17 the child's family is a family with service needs or as a basis for further
18 adjudication of the case; (5) require that, if it is determined that the
19 child and the child's family who are referred for such voluntary
20 services can no longer benefit from such services, the probation officer
21 file a petition with the court or withdraw the complaint; (6) require
22 that all facts underlying a petition alleging a family with service needs
23 be verified for their truth, accuracy and legal sufficiency before such a
24 petition is filed with the court; and (7) require that a petition alleging a
25 family with service needs attach all documents necessary to verify the
26 facts alleged in the petition. It is further proposed that any person who
27 fails to verify facts alleged in a complaint or petition concerning child
28 abuse, child neglect or a family with service needs be subject to a fine
29 of not more than two thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than
30 one year or both and that he shall not receive immunity.

Statement of Purpose:

To ensure that facts surrounding allegations of neglect or abuse of a child are verified prior to investigation by the Department of Children and Families and prior to the initiation of an action in the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters.