



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Proposed Bill No. 5981

LCO No. 1784

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:

REP. WALKER, 93rd Dist.

SEN. HARP, 10th Dist.

REP. DILLON, 92nd Dist.

**AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AND PARENTS OR
GUARDIANS IN JUVENILE MATTERS.**

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

1 That chapter 319a of the general statutes be amended to require any
2 employee or representative of the Department of Children and
3 Families to inform a family member or guardian who is the subject of
4 an investigation by the department that: (1) The family member or
5 guardian is not required to permit the department employee or
6 representative to enter the family member's or guardian's home
7 without a warrant; (2) the family member or guardian is not required
8 to speak with the department employee or representative; (3) the
9 family member or guardian is entitled to representation by an attorney
10 whenever communicating with a department employee or
11 representative; (4) any communication or statement made by the
12 family member or guardian may be used in a department report or
13 judicial proceeding; (5) the department employee or representative
14 does not represent the family member or guardian; (6) the family

15 member or guardian is not required to sign any document, including a
16 release of claims or a service document; and (7) the department may
17 file a petition in juvenile court or initiate proceedings to remove
18 children from the home. It is further proposed that an employee or
19 representative of the department who fails to provide such
20 information be subject to a fine of not more than two thousand dollars
21 or imprisoned not more than one year or both and that he not receive
22 immunity.

Statement of Purpose:

To require the Department of Children and Families to provide certain information to parents and guardians prior to commencing an investigation.