



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

**Raised Bill No. 818**

LCO No. 2795

\*02795 \_\_\_\_\_ HS\_\*

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:  
(HS)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN SAFE HAVENS CASES.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 17a-59 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

3 (a) Not more than twenty-four hours after taking physical custody  
4 of the infant the designated employee shall notify, in accordance with  
5 the provisions of sections 17a-101a to 17a-101d, inclusive, the  
6 Department of Children and Families of such custody.

7 (b) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall assume the  
8 care and control of the infant immediately upon receipt of notice under  
9 subsection (a) of this section. [and] Any infant in the care and control  
10 of the commissioner under the provisions of this section shall be  
11 considered to be in the custody of the department and the department  
12 shall take any action authorized under state law to achieve safety and  
13 permanency for the infant, including institution of legal proceedings  
14 for guardianship or termination of parental rights and notification of

15 such legal proceedings to any parent of the child whose identity is  
16 known to the department.

17 [(c) Any infant in the care and control of the commissioner under  
18 the provisions of this section shall be considered to be in the custody of  
19 the department.]

20 Sec. 2. Section 17a-60 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
21 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

22 (a) If a person claiming to be a parent or agent of an infant left with  
23 a designated employee under section 17a-58 submits a request to the  
24 Commissioner of Children and Families for reunification with the  
25 infant, the commissioner may identify, contact and investigate such  
26 person or agent to determine if such reunification is appropriate or if  
27 the parental rights of the parent should be terminated.

28 (b) Information concerning a parent or agent or infant left with a  
29 designated employee shall [be confidential] not be disclosed by the  
30 designated employee, if so requested by the parent or agent, except  
31 that notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, such  
32 employee shall provide to the Commissioner of Children and Families  
33 all medical history information provided by the parent.

34 (c) Possession of a bracelet linking the parent or agent to an infant  
35 left with a designated employee if parental rights have not been  
36 terminated creates a presumption the parent or person has standing to  
37 participate in a custody hearing for the infant under chapter 319a and  
38 does not create a presumption of maternity, paternity or custody.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	17a-59
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	17a-60

**Statement of Purpose:**

To clarify the Department of Children and Families' role and responsibility in Safe Havens cases.

*[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.]*