



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5185**

February Session, 2012

\*        HB05185HS        032612        \*

**AN ACT CONCERNING INTERVIEWS IN CHILD ABUSE AND  
NEGLECT CASES.**

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

1       Section 1. Section 17a-101h of the 2012 supplement to the general  
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

4       Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any person  
5 authorized to conduct an investigation of abuse or neglect shall  
6 coordinate investigatory activities in order to minimize the number of  
7 interviews of any child and share information with other persons  
8 authorized to conduct an investigation of child abuse or neglect, as  
9 appropriate. A person reporting child abuse or neglect shall provide  
10 any person authorized to conduct an investigation of child abuse or  
11 neglect with all information related to the investigation that is in the  
12 possession or control of the person reporting child abuse or neglect,  
13 except as expressly prohibited by state or federal law. The  
14 commissioner shall obtain the consent of parents or guardians or other  
15 persons responsible for the care of the child to any interview with a  
16 child, except that such consent shall not be required when the  
17 department has a documented compelling reason to believe [such  
18 parent or guardian or other person responsible for the care of the child  
19 or member of the child's household is the perpetrator of the alleged

20 abuse] that seeking such consent would place the child at imminent  
21 risk of physical harm. If consent is not required to conduct the  
22 interview, such interview shall be conducted in the presence of a  
23 disinterested adult unless immediate access to the child is necessary to  
24 protect the child from imminent risk of physical harm and a  
25 disinterested adult is not available after reasonable search. For  
26 purposes of this section, a "documented compelling reason" includes,  
27 but is not limited to, criminal conviction information concerning the  
28 person or persons alleged to be responsible for such abuse or neglect  
29 and previous allegations of abuse or neglect relating to the child or  
30 other children residing in the household or relating to family violence.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2012	17a-101h

**KID**      *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*      HS  
**HS**      *Joint Favorable*