



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

Committee Bill No. 763

LCO No. 4299



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:
(HS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING NOTICE OF INVESTIGATIONS BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 17a-103b of the general statutes is repealed and
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2013*):

3 (a) Upon the opening of an investigation concerning the alleged
4 abuse or neglect of a child, the Department of Children and Families
5 shall give, when deemed to be in the best interests of the child, notice
6 to the noncustodial parent, custodial parent, guardian of the child and
7 parents if the Department of Children and Families has custody of a
8 child, unless there are reasonable grounds to believe such notice may
9 interfere with a criminal investigation or endanger a person. Such
10 notice shall include (1) the allegation in the complaint, (2) the
11 availability of services from the department, including, but not limited
12 to, child care subsidies and emergency shelter, and (3) the programs of
13 the Office of Victim Services and information on obtaining a
14 restraining order. The notice shall also inform the recipient that such
15 child may be removed from the custody of the custodial parent by the
16 department if such removal is authorized under the general statutes.

17 The department shall employ all reasonable efforts to provide such
18 notice verbally not later than two business days after the opening of
19 such investigation or in writing not later than five business days after
20 the opening of such investigation.

21 [(a)] (b) Upon a substantiated complaint of abuse of a child having a
22 single custodial parent or a guardian, the Department of Children and
23 Families shall give, when deemed to be in the best interests of the
24 child, to the noncustodial parent, custodial parent, guardian of the
25 child, and parents if the Department of Children and Families has
26 custody of a child, notice of (1) the circumstances of the complaint,
27 including the name of the person who caused the abuse, (2) the
28 availability of services from the department, including, but not limited
29 to, child care subsidies and emergency shelter, and (3) the programs of
30 the Office of Victim Services and information on obtaining a
31 restraining order. The notice shall also inform the recipient that such
32 child may be removed from the custody of the custodial parent by the
33 department if such removal is authorized under the general statutes.
34 The department shall employ all reasonable efforts to provide the
35 notice within ten days of substantiation of a complaint.

36 [(b)] (c) The written notice required under [subsection (a)]
37 subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall be in English or the
38 principal language of the recipient, if known, and be delivered (1) by
39 certified mail, return receipt requested, directed to the last-known
40 address of each recipient, or (2) by an agent of the department. In the
41 case of personal delivery by an agent, written acknowledgment of such
42 delivery shall be made by the recipient.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2013	17a-103b

Statement of Purpose:

To provide notice, when deemed to be in the best interests of a child, to the child's guardian, custodial parent and noncustodial parent of any investigation the Department of Children and Families opens regarding the child.

[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.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. MUSTO, 22nd Dist.

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