



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 763**

January Session, 2013



**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 Section 17a-103b of the general statutes is repealed and  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 in English or the principal language of the recipient, if known,  
19 verbally not later than two business days after the opening of such

20 investigation or in writing not later than five business days after the  
 21 opening of such investigation.

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

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

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

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1(b)(1), "abuse" was changed to "abuse or neglect" for consistency with other provisions of the section.

**HS**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*