



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

Raised Bill No. 832

LCO No. 2936



Referred to Committee on CHILDREN

Introduced by:
(KID)

AN ACT CONCERNING FAMILY ASSESSMENT CASES.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (g) of section 17a-101g of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2013*):

4 (g) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (f),
5 inclusive, of this section, the commissioner may establish a program of
6 [differential] family assessment response to reports of child abuse and
7 neglect whereby the report may be referred to appropriate community
8 providers for family assessment and services without an investigation
9 or at any time during an investigation, provided there has been an
10 initial safety assessment of the circumstances of a family and child and
11 criminal background checks have been performed on all adults
12 involved in the report.

13 (2) The commissioner may adopt regulations in accordance with the
14 provisions of chapter 54 to establish a method for the department to
15 monitor the progress of the child and family referred to a community

16 provider pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection and to set
17 standards for reopening an investigation pursuant to this section.

18 (3) Consistent with the provisions of section 17a-28, the department
19 shall disclose all relevant information in its possession concerning the
20 child and family, including prior child protection activity, to each
21 provider to whom a report has been referred for use by the provider in
22 the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of unique needs of the family
23 and the prevention of future reports. Each provider who has received a
24 report of child abuse or neglect referred pursuant to this subsection
25 shall disclose to the department, consistent with the provisions of
26 section 17a-28, all relevant information gathered during assessment,
27 diagnosis and treatment of the child and family. The department may
28 use such information solely to monitor and ensure the continued safety
29 and well-being of the child or children.

30 Sec. 2. Subsection (h) of section 17a-101k of the general statutes is
31 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
32 *October 1, 2013*):

33 (h) Records containing unsubstantiated findings and records
34 relating to family assessment cases shall remain sealed, except that
35 such records shall be made available to department employees in the
36 proper discharge of their duties and shall be expunged by the
37 commissioner five years from the completion date of the investigation
38 or the closure of the family assessment case if no further report is made
39 about the individual subject to the investigation or the family subject to
40 the assessment, except that if the department receives more than one
41 report on an individual or family subject to assessment and each report
42 is unsubstantiated, all reports and information pertaining to the
43 individual or family shall be expunged by the commissioner five years
44 from the completion date of the most recent investigation.

<p>This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:</p>
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	17a-101g(g)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	17a-101k(h)

Statement of Purpose:

To change "differential response" to "family assessment response" to reflect current practice and to provide for expungement of family assessment response cases if no new reports of child abuse or neglect are received on the family for a period of five years.

[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.]