

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 13-54—sSB 832

Children Committee

Human Services Committee

Government Administration and Elections Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING FAMILY ASSESSMENT CASES

SUMMARY: This act requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to follow the same expungement process for family assessment response cases as applies to unsubstantiated cases of abuse and neglect. It requires DCF to seal family assessment case records, but it allows agency employees to access them to properly discharge their duties. It requires the commissioner to destroy the case files five years after DCF completes its investigation or closes the family assessment case, whichever is later, if the department has not received another report of abuse or neglect involving the family. But if a family has more than one unsubstantiated report within this period, DCF must keep the records for five years from the date it completed the most recent investigation.

The act also renames the DCF “differential response” program the “family assessment response” program. Under this program, when DCF receives a report of child abuse or neglect, it can make referrals to appropriate community providers for family assessment and services either when it decides not to investigate a case that it classifies as presenting a lower safety risk or, if it decides to investigate, at any time during the investigation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

OLR Tracking: KGD:LH:VR:RO