



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

231 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(860) 757-2270 Fax (860) 757-2215

Testimony of the Judicial Branch
Committee on Children Public Hearing
March 5, 2019

S.B. 929, An Act Concerning the Inclusion of Additional Mandated Reporters, the Duration of Child Abuse and Neglect Investigations and the Repeal of Certain Reporting Requirements of the Department of Children and Families

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch concerning *S.B. 929, An Act Concerning the Inclusion of Additional Mandated Reporters, the Duration of Child Abuse and Neglect Investigations and the Repeal of Certain Reporting Requirements of the Department of Children and Families*. Should the Committee decide to act favorably on this proposal, we would ask for a change to the language of Section 1 of the bill.

The bill as proposed adds victim services *supervisors* to the list of mandated reporters. While putting together our legislative package for this year, we contemplated adding this class of individuals to the list of mandated reporters, but decided against it. However, we did include language in our Court Operations bill that added victim services *advocates* to the list of mandated reporters. We opted to not include the supervisors because they do not conduct assessments or carry a caseload. While supervisors may read police reports in the course of their duties, they would have no supporting documentation or personal experience to support or refute the information contained in a police report. Because of this, we would support the inclusion of victim services advocates as mandated reporters in lieu of victim services supervisors.

Additionally, the bill lists an effective date of July 1, 2019. We would respectfully ask that you push the effective date back to October 1, 2019 to give us time to train staff and revise contracts where applicable.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.