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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

**HB 6186**

### ***AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAL RECORDS PERTAINING TO PRENATAL CARE AND MANDATED REPORTS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill prohibits a mandated reporter of suspected child abuse or neglect from including the mother's prenatal care-related medical records in the report. (It is unclear whether mandated reporters would be able to, or required to, report abuse or neglect of another of their patient's children if they were alerted to that abuse or neglect in the context of prenatal care.)

Under existing law, reports of mandated reporters of child abuse or neglect must include, among other things and if known, (1) the child's name, age, gender, and address; (2) the name(s) and address(es) of the child's parent(s) or guardian(s); (3) details on the suspected injuries, maltreatment, or neglect; and (4) what actions were taken to assist the child.

The law, unchanged by the bill, generally gives civil and criminal liability protection to a mandated reporter who provides, in good faith, professional medical intervention or assistance in a child abuse or neglect proceeding, including disclosing relevant medical records or other information (CGS § 17a-101e).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Mandated Reporters of Child Abuse or Neglect***

By law, people in specified professions or occupations that have contact with children or whose primary focus is children are required to report suspected child abuse or neglect to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) or a law enforcement agency.

A mandated reporter must file a report when, in the ordinary course of their employment or profession, they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child (1) has been abused or neglected, (2) is placed in imminent risk of serious harm, or (3) suffered a nonaccidental physical injury or injury that varies from its given history. These reports must be filed as soon as practicable but no later than 12 hours after they have reasonable cause to make the report (and for oral reports, they must follow up with a written report to DCF within 48 hours).

***Mandated Reporters Caring for High-Risk Newborns***

Under existing law, certain licensed healthcare providers (e.g., physicians, physician assistants, and nurse midwives) involved in the delivery or care of a newborn who exhibits physical, neurological, or behavioral symptoms consistent with prenatal substance exposure, associated withdrawal symptoms, or fetal alcohol spectrum disorder must notify DCF of the newborn’s condition in addition to any other applicable reporting requirements (CGS § 17a-102a).

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable

Yea 17    Nay 0    (03/06/2025)