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Agency of Human Services

April 17, 2014

Sen. Richard W. Sears
Vermont State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Re: Amendment of 28 V.S.A. § 204(d) for child protection

Dear Senator Sears:

The Department of Corrections (DOC) requests that 28 V.S.A. § 204(d) be amended to permit it to share probationers' and parolees' supervision histories prepared by DOC employees with the Department for Children and Families (DCF) for child protection purposes. Section 204(d) prohibits DOC from sharing this information with DCF unless a court or the Parole Board authorizes it after determining that sharing the information is in the best interest or welfare of the probationer or parolee. DOC may obtain information in the course of supervising probationers and parolees that could aid DCF in its duty to protect children. Therefore, DOC requests the statutory authority to share this information with DCF for purposes of child protection.

DOC suggests that 28 V.S.A. § 204 be amended to add the following sentence at the end of subsection (d): "Nothing in this section prohibits the Department of Children and Families from having access to the supervision history of probationers or parolees for purposes of child protection. "

Thank you for considering this proposal to ensure the timely sharing of information between DOC and DCF for child protection purposes.

Sincerely,

Andrew Pallito
Commissioner, Department of Corrections

David Yacovone,
Commissioner, Department for Children and Families