

1 Introduced by Representatives Haas of Rochester and Pugh of South

2 Burlington

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Human services; law enforcement

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to clarify that
7 the Department for Children and Families shall report to and receive assistance
8 from law enforcement only if it has accepted a report of child abuse or neglect.

9 An act relating to the circumstances under which the Department for
10 Children and Families shall report to and receive assistance from law
11 enforcement

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 4915 is amended to read:

14 § 4915. ASSESSMENT AND INVESTIGATION

15 (a) Upon receipt of a report of abuse or neglect, the Department shall
16 promptly determine whether it constitutes an allegation of child abuse or
17 neglect as defined in section 4912 of this title. The Department shall respond
18 to reports of alleged neglect or abuse that occurred in Vermont and to
19 out-of-state conduct when the child is a resident of or is present in Vermont.

20 * * *

1 (f) The Department may collaborate with child protection, law
2 enforcement, and other departments and agencies in Vermont and other
3 jurisdictions to evaluate risk to a child and to determine the service needs of
4 the child and family. The Department may enter into reciprocal agreements
5 with other jurisdictions to further the purposes of this subchapter.

6 (g) ~~The~~ If the report is accepted as a valid allegation of abuse or neglect,
7 the Department shall report to and receive assistance from appropriate law
8 enforcement in the following circumstances:

9 (1) investigations of child sexual abuse by an alleged perpetrator
10 10 years of age or older;

11 (2) investigations of serious physical abuse or neglect requiring
12 emergency medical care, resulting in death, or likely to result in criminal
13 charges;

14 (3) situations potentially dangerous to the child or Department
15 worker; and

16 (4) an incident in which a child suffers:

17 (A) serious bodily injury as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 1021, by other
18 than accidental means; and

19 (B) potential violations of:

20 (i) 13 V.S.A. § 2602 (lewd or lascivious conduct with child);

21 (ii) 13 V.S.A. chapter 60 (human trafficking);

1 (iii) 13 V.S.A. chapter 64 (sexual exploitation of children); and

2 (iv) 13 V.S.A. chapter 72 (sexual assault).

3 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on passage.