

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

3 HOUSE BILL 1600

By: Kern

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to children; amending 10A O.S. 2011,  
8 Section 1-2-101, as amended by Section 1, Chapter  
9 374, O.S.L. 2013 (10A O.S. Supp. 2014, Section 1-2-  
10 101), which relates to child abuse and neglect  
11 reports; requiring health care professionals and  
12 school personnel to report suspected child abuse or  
13 neglect to law enforcement; and providing an  
14 effective date.

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

16 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 10A O.S. 2011, Section 1-2-101, as  
17 amended by Section 1, Chapter 374, O.S.L. 2013 (10A O.S. Supp. 2014,  
18 Section 1-2-101), is amended to read as follows:

19 Section 1-2-101. A. 1. The Department of Human Services shall  
20 establish a statewide centralized hotline for the reporting of child  
21 abuse or neglect to the Department.

22 2. The Department shall provide hotline-specific training  
23 including, but not limited to, interviewing skills, customer service  
24 skills, narrative writing, necessary computer systems, making case  
determinations, and identifying priority situations.

1           3. The Department is authorized to contract with third parties  
2 in order to train hotline workers.

3           4. The Department shall develop a system to track the number of  
4 calls received, and of that number:

- 5           a. the number of calls screened out,
- 6           b. the number of referrals assigned, and
- 7           c. the number of calls in which the allegations were  
8                 later found to be unsubstantiated or ruled out.

9           5. The Department shall electronically record each referral  
10 received by the hotline and establish a secure means of retaining  
11 the recordings for ninety (90) days. The recordings shall be  
12 confidential and subject to disclosure only in those cases in which  
13 criminal charges related to the referral have been filed and  
14 pursuant to the requirements of subsection E of Section 1-6-102 of  
15 this title. If the court orders the disclosure of the referral, the  
16 Department shall redact any information identifying the reporting  
17 party unless otherwise ordered by the court.

18           B. 1. Every person having reason to believe that a child under  
19 the age of eighteen (18) years is a victim of abuse or neglect shall  
20 report the matter promptly to the Department of Human Services.  
21 Reports shall be made to the hotline provided for in subsection A of  
22 this section. Any allegation of abuse or neglect reported in any  
23 manner to a county office shall immediately be referred to the  
24 hotline by the Department. Provided, however, that in actions for

1 custody by abandonment, provided for in Section 2-117 of Title 30 of  
2 the Oklahoma Statutes, there shall be no reporting requirement.

3 2. Every physician, surgeon, or other health care professional  
4 including doctors of medicine, licensed osteopathic physicians,  
5 residents and interns, or any other health care professional  
6 attending the birth of a child who tests positive for alcohol or a  
7 controlled dangerous substance shall promptly report the matter to  
8 the Department.

9 3. No privilege or contract shall relieve any person from the  
10 requirement of reporting pursuant to this section.

11 4. The reporting obligations under this section are individual,  
12 and no employer, supervisor, or administrator shall interfere with  
13 the reporting obligations of any employee or other person or in any  
14 manner discriminate or retaliate against the employee or other  
15 person who in good faith reports suspected child abuse or neglect,  
16 or who provides testimony in any proceeding involving child abuse or  
17 neglect. Any employer, supervisor, or administrator who discharges,  
18 discriminates or retaliates against the employee or other person  
19 shall be liable for damages, costs and attorney fees.

20 5. Every physician, surgeon, or other health care professional  
21 making a report of abuse or neglect as required by this subsection  
22 or examining a child to determine the likelihood of abuse or neglect  
23 and every hospital or related institution in which the child was  
24 examined or treated shall provide, upon request, copies of the

1 results of the examination or copies of the examination on which the  
2 report was based and any other clinical notes, x-rays, photographs,  
3 and other previous or current records relevant to the case to law  
4 enforcement officers conducting a criminal investigation into the  
5 case and to employees of the Department of Human Services conducting  
6 an investigation of alleged abuse or neglect in the case.

7 6. In addition to reporting suspected child abuse or neglect to  
8 the Department pursuant to paragraph 1 of this subsection, every  
9 physician, surgeon or other health care professional, and every  
10 teacher, administrator or other school personnel shall also promptly  
11 report suspected child abuse or neglect to the law enforcement  
12 agency with jurisdiction over the report.

13 C. Any person who knowingly and willfully fails to promptly  
14 report suspected child abuse or neglect or who interferes with the  
15 prompt reporting of suspected child abuse or neglect may be reported  
16 to local law enforcement for criminal investigation and, upon  
17 conviction thereof, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Any person  
18 with prolonged knowledge of ongoing child abuse or neglect who  
19 knowingly and willfully fails to promptly report such knowledge may  
20 be reported to local law enforcement for criminal investigation and,  
21 upon conviction thereof, shall be guilty of a felony. For the  
22 purposes of this paragraph, "prolonged knowledge" shall mean  
23 knowledge of at least six (6) months of child abuse or neglect.

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1 D. 1. Any person who knowingly and willfully makes a false  
2 report pursuant to the provisions of this section or a report that  
3 the person knows lacks factual foundation may be reported to local  
4 law enforcement for criminal investigation and, upon conviction  
5 thereof, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

6 2. If a court determines that an accusation of child abuse or  
7 neglect made during a child custody proceeding is false and the  
8 person making the accusation knew it to be false at the time the  
9 accusation was made, the court may impose a fine, not to exceed Five  
10 Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) and reasonable attorney fees incurred  
11 in recovering the sanctions, against the person making the  
12 accusation. The remedy provided by this paragraph is in addition to  
13 paragraph 1 of this subsection or to any other remedy provided by  
14 law.

15 E. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to  
16 exempt or prohibit any person from reporting any suspected child  
17 abuse or neglect pursuant to subsection B of this section.

18 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2015.

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20 55-1-5579 EK 01/21/15  
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