

2018 -- H 7389

=====
LC003640
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - CHILD ADVOCATE OFFICE

Introduced By: Representatives Morgan, Quattrocchi, Giarrusso, Nardolillo, and Mendonca

Date Introduced: February 01, 2018

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 42-73-9 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-73 entitled "Child
2 Advocate Office" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **42-73-9. Rights and powers of advocate.**

4 The child advocate shall have the following rights and powers:

5 (1) To communicate privately, by mail or orally, with any child in treatment, or under
6 protective services;

7 (2) To have access, including the right to inspect, copy and/or subpoena records held by
8 the clerk of the family court, law enforcement, agencies, and institutions, public or private, and
9 other agencies, or persons with whom a particular child has been either voluntarily or otherwise
10 placed for care, or has received treatment within or without the state, regardless of who may have
11 created such records, and regardless of where or in whose custody such records may reside;

12 (3) To take whatever steps are appropriate to see that persons are made aware of the
13 services of the child advocate's office, its purpose, and how it can be contacted;

14 (4) To apply for and accept grants, gifts and bequests of funds from other states, federal
15 and interstate agencies and independent authorities, and private firms, individuals and
16 foundations, for the purpose of carrying out his or her lawful responsibilities. The funds shall be
17 deposited with the general treasurer in a restricted receipt account established within the office to
18 permit funds to be expended in accordance with the provisions of the grant or bequest; and

19 (5) To exercise the powers conferred upon a trustee pursuant to the provisions of § 18-4-2

1 and to be exempt from the provisions of chapter 15 of title 33.

2 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====
LC003640
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - CHILD ADVOCATE OFFICE

1 This act would re-enforce the authority of the office of the child advocate in accessing
2 records necessary to its investigative powers.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

=====
LC003640
=====