

1 H.817

2 Introduced by Representative Fields of Bennington

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Child welfare services; Child Protection Registry

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to change from  
7 first class mail to certified mail the method by which the Department for  
8 Children and Families notifies individuals substantiated for child abuse or  
9 neglect.

10 An act relating to the method of notification to persons substantiated for  
11 child abuse or neglect

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

13 Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 4916a is amended to read:

14 § 4916a. CHALLENGING PLACEMENT ON THE REGISTRY

15 (a) If an investigation conducted in accordance with section 4915b of this  
16 title results in a determination that a report of child abuse or neglect should be  
17 substantiated, the Department shall notify the person alleged to have abused or  
18 neglected a child of the following:

19 (1) the nature of the substantiation decision, and that the Department  
20 intends to enter the record of the substantiation into the Registry;

1 (2) who has access to Registry information and under what  
2 circumstances;

3 (3) the implications of having one's name placed on the Registry as it  
4 applies to employment, licensure, and registration;

5 (4) the right to request a review of the substantiation determination by  
6 an administrative reviewer, the time in which the request for review shall be  
7 made, and the consequences of not seeking a review; and

8 (5) the right to receive a copy of the Commissioner's written findings  
9 made in accordance with subdivision 4916(a)(2) of this title if applicable.

10 (b) Under this section, notice by the Department to a person alleged to have  
11 abused or neglected a child shall be by ~~first-class~~ certified mail sent to the  
12 person's last known address.

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14 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.