

STATE OF NEW YORK

7938

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

May 28, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. FERNANDEZ, GUNTHER -- (at request of the Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs) -- read once and referred to the Committee on Mental Health

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to the requirement to check the justice center's register of substantiated category one cases of abuse or neglect

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivisions 2 and 3 of section 495 of the social services
2 law, as added by section 1 of part B of chapter 501 of the laws of 2012,
3 are amended to read as follows:

4 2. (a) All facility and provider agencies, other providers of services
5 to vulnerable persons in programs licensed, certified or funded by any
6 state oversight agency, overnight, summer day and traveling summer day
7 camps for children subject to the provisions of article thirteen-B of
8 the public health law, any provider defined in paragraph (a) of subdivi-
9 sion six of section twenty-eight hundred ninety-nine of the public
10 health law and, except for a state or local governmental official who
11 receives an application for a permit to operate a camp that is subject
12 to the provisions of article thirteen-B of the public health law, other
13 provider and licensing agencies as defined in subdivision three or four
14 of section four hundred twenty-four-a of this chapter shall check the
15 register of substantiated category one cases of abuse or neglect before
16 determining whether to hire or otherwise allow any person as an employ-
17 ee, administrator, consultant, intern, volunteer or contractor who will
18 have the potential for regular and substantial contact with a service
19 recipient or before approving an applicant for a license, certificate,
20 permit or other approval to provide care to a service recipient. (For
21 state entities bound by collective bargaining, such action established
22 by collective bargaining shall govern.)

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 (b) An inquiry regarding any current employee, administrator, consult-
2 ant, intern, volunteer or contractor who will have the potential for
3 regular and substantial contact with a service recipient may be made
4 only once in any six-month period.

5 3. If a person is listed on the register of substantiated category one
6 cases of abuse or neglect, a facility or provider agency and all other
7 providers of services to vulnerable persons in programs licensed or
8 certified by any state oversight agency shall not hire such a person to
9 have regular and substantial contact with a service recipient in any
10 such facility or program. Other providers of services defined in subdivi-
11 vision two of this section, except providers or licensing agencies as
12 defined in subdivision three or four of section four hundred twenty-
13 four-a of this chapter, shall not hire such a person for any position in
14 which the person would have the potential for regular and substantial
15 contact with persons to whom they would be providing care, if the
16 prospective employee is listed on the register of substantiated category
17 one cases of abuse or neglect. Other providers or licensing agencies as
18 defined in subdivision three or four of section four hundred twenty-
19 four-a of this chapter shall determine whether to hire or allow such a
20 person to have regular or substantial contact with a service recipient
21 in accordance with the provisions of subdivision five of section four
22 hundred twenty-four-a of this chapter.

23 § 2. Subdivision 7 of section 424-a of the social services law, as
24 added by section 8 of part D of chapter 501 of the laws of 2012, is
25 amended to read as follows:

26 7. Any facility~~[r]~~ or provider agency, ~~[or program]~~ as defined in
27 subdivision four of section four hundred eighty-eight of this chapter,
28 that is required to conduct an inquiry pursuant to section four hundred
29 ninety-five of this chapter before determining whether to hire or other-
30 wise allow any person as an employee, administrator, consultant, intern,
31 volunteer or contractor who will have the potential for regular and
32 substantial contact with a service recipient shall first conduct the
33 inquiry required under such section. If the result of the inquiry under
34 section four hundred ninety-five of this chapter is that the person
35 about whom the inquiry is made is on the register of substantiated cate-
36 gory one cases of abuse or neglect and ~~[the]~~ such facility or provider
37 agency is required to deny the application in accordance with article
38 eleven of this chapter, the facility or provider agency shall not be
39 required to make an inquiry of the office under this section.

40 § 3. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a
41 law.