

3470

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

January 23, 2015

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Introduced by M. of A. HEVESI -- read once and referred to the Committee  
on Children and Families

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to enacting the  
"state central register technology upgrade act"

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY,  
DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "state  
2     central register technology upgrade act".  
3     S 2. Section 415 of the social services law, as amended by section 3-a  
4     of part D of chapter 501 of the laws of 2012, is amended to read as  
5     follows:  
6     S 415. Reporting procedure. Reports of suspected child abuse or  
7     maltreatment made pursuant to this title shall be made immediately by  
8     INSTANT MESSAGING, telephone or by telephone facsimile machine on a form  
9     supplied by the commissioner of the office of children and family  
10    services. SUCH REPORTS CONVEYED THROUGH INSTANT MESSAGING MAY INCLUDE  
11    PICTURES. Oral reports AND REPORTS MADE THROUGH INSTANT MESSAGING shall  
12    be followed by a report in writing within forty-eight hours after such  
13    [oral] report. Oral reports shall be made to the statewide central  
14    register of child abuse and maltreatment unless the appropriate local  
15    plan for the provision of child protective services provides that oral  
16    reports should be made to the local child protective service. In those  
17    localities in which oral reports are made initially to the local child  
18    protective service, the child protective service shall immediately make  
19    an oral or electronic report to the statewide central register. Written  
20    reports shall be made to the appropriate local child protective service  
21    except that written reports involving children being cared for in a home  
22    operated or supervised by an authorized agency or the office of children  
23    and family services shall be made to the statewide central register of  
24    child abuse and maltreatment which shall transmit the reports to the  
25    agency responsible for investigating the report, in accordance with

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

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1 section four hundred twenty-four-b of this title. Written reports shall  
2 be made in a manner prescribed and on forms supplied by the commissioner  
3 of the office of children and family services and shall include the  
4 following information: the names and addresses of the child and his or  
5 her parents or other person responsible for his or her care, if known,  
6 and, as the case may be, the name and address of the program in which  
7 the child is receiving care; the child's age, sex and race; the nature  
8 and extent of the child's injuries, abuse or maltreatment, including any  
9 evidence of prior injuries, abuse or maltreatment to the child or, as  
10 the case may be, his or her siblings; the name of the person or persons  
11 alleged to be responsible for causing the injury, abuse or maltreatment,  
12 if known; family composition, where appropriate; the source of the  
13 report; the person making the report and where he or she can be reached;  
14 the actions taken by the reporting source, including the taking of  
15 photographs and x-rays, removal or keeping of the child or notifying the  
16 medical examiner or coroner; and any other information which the commis-  
17 sioner of the office of children and family services may, by regulation,  
18 require, or the person making the report believes might be helpful, in  
19 the furtherance of the purposes of this title. Notwithstanding the  
20 privileges set forth in article forty-five of the civil practice law and  
21 rules, and any other provision of law to the contrary, mandated repor-  
22 ters who make a report which initiates an investigation of an allegation  
23 of child abuse or maltreatment are required to comply with all requests  
24 for records made by a child protective service relating to such report,  
25 including records relating to diagnosis, prognosis or treatment, and  
26 clinical records, of any patient or client that are essential for a full  
27 investigation of allegations of child abuse or maltreatment pursuant to  
28 this title; provided, however, that disclosure of substance abuse treat-  
29 ment records shall be made pursuant to the standards and procedures for  
30 disclosure of such records delineated in federal law. Written reports  
31 from persons or officials required by this title to report shall be  
32 admissible in evidence in any proceedings relating to child abuse or  
33 maltreatment.

34 S 3. The commissioner of the office of children and family services  
35 shall promulgate any rules and regulations necessary to ensure that  
36 security measures are implemented to keep and store such information  
37 sent via instant messaging pursuant to section 415 of the social  
38 services law.

39 S 4. This act shall take effect immediately.