

S. 2117

A. 3032

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

S E N A T E - A S S E M B L Y

January 21, 2015

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IN SENATE -- Introduced by Sen. KENNEDY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Children and Families

IN ASSEMBLY -- Introduced by M. of A. PEOPLES-STOKES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Children and Families

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to improvements in the state central register of child abuse and maltreatment

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 422 of the social services  
2     law, subdivision 2 as amended by chapter 717 of the laws of 1986, para-  
3     graph (a) of subdivision 2 as amended by chapter 357 of the laws of 2014  
4     and subdivision 3 as added by chapter 1039 of the laws of 1973, are  
5     amended to read as follows:  
6     2. (a) The central register shall be capable of receiving telephone  
7     calls AND ELECTRONIC REPORTS alleging child abuse or maltreatment and of  
8     immediately identifying prior reports of child abuse or maltreatment and  
9     capable of monitoring the provision of child protective service twenty-  
10    four hours a day, seven days a week. To effectuate this purpose, but  
11    subject to the provisions of the appropriate local plan for the  
12    provision of child protective services, there shall be a single state-  
13    wide telephone number AND INTERNET ADDRESS that all persons, whether  
14    mandated by the law or not, may use to make telephone calls OR SEND  
15    ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS alleging child abuse or maltreatment and that  
16    all persons so authorized by this title may use for determining the  
17    existence of prior reports in order to evaluate the condition or circum-  
18    stances of a child. In addition to the single statewide telephone  
19    number AND INTERNET ADDRESS, there shall be a special unlisted express  
20    telephone number and a telephone facsimile number AND INTERNET ADDRESS  
21    for use only by persons mandated by law to make telephone calls, or to

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

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1 transmit telephone facsimile OR ELECTRONIC information on a form  
2 provided by the commissioner of children and family services, alleging  
3 child abuse or maltreatment, and for use by all persons so authorized by  
4 this title for determining the existence of prior reports in order to  
5 evaluate the condition or circumstances of a child. THE WEBPAGE CREATED  
6 TO ACCEPT ELECTRONIC REPORTS SHALL BE CAPABLE OF RECEIVING DIGITAL  
7 IMAGES AND ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS IN COMMON FILE FORMATS. When any allega-  
8 tions contained in such telephone calls OR ELECTRONIC REPORT could  
9 reasonably constitute a report of child abuse or maltreatment, such  
10 allegations and any previous reports to the central registry involving  
11 the subject of such report or children named in such report, including  
12 any previous report containing allegations of child abuse and maltreat-  
13 ment alleged to have occurred in other counties and districts in New  
14 York state shall be immediately transmitted orally or electronically by  
15 the office of children and family services to the appropriate local  
16 child protective service for investigation. The inability of the person  
17 calling the register OR MAKING THE ALLEGATION ONLINE to identify the  
18 alleged perpetrator shall, in no circumstance, constitute the sole cause  
19 for the register to reject such allegation or fail to transmit such  
20 allegation for investigation. If the records indicate a previous report  
21 concerning a subject of the report, the child alleged to be abused or  
22 maltreated, a sibling, other children in the household, other persons  
23 named in the report or other pertinent information, the appropriate  
24 local child protective service shall be immediately notified of the  
25 fact. If the report involves either (i) an allegation of an abused child  
26 described in paragraph (i), (ii) or (iii) of subdivision (e) of section  
27 one thousand twelve of the family court act or sexual abuse of a child  
28 or the death of a child or (ii) suspected maltreatment which alleges any  
29 physical harm when the report is made by a person required to report  
30 pursuant to section four hundred thirteen of this title within six  
31 months of any other two reports that were indicated, or may still be  
32 pending, involving the same child, sibling, or other children in the  
33 household or the subject of the report, the office of children and fami-  
34 ly services shall identify the report as such and note any prior reports  
35 when transmitting the report to the local child protective services for  
36 investigation.

37 (b) Any telephone call OR ELECTRONIC REPORT made by a person required  
38 to report cases of suspected child abuse or maltreatment pursuant to  
39 section four hundred thirteen of this [chapter] TITLE containing allega-  
40 tions, which if true would constitute child abuse or maltreatment shall  
41 constitute a report and shall be immediately transmitted orally or elec-  
42 tronically by the [department] OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES to  
43 the appropriate local child protective service for investigation.

44 (c) Whenever a telephone call OR ELECTRONIC REPORT to the statewide  
45 central register described in this section is received by the [depart-  
46 ment] OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES, and the [department]  
47 OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES finds that the person allegedly  
48 responsible for abuse or maltreatment of a child cannot be a subject of  
49 a report as defined in subdivision four of section four hundred twelve  
50 of this [chapter] TITLE, but believes that the alleged acts or circum-  
51 stances against a child described in the telephone call OR ELECTRONIC  
52 REPORT may constitute a crime or an immediate threat to the child's  
53 health or safety, the [department] OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY  
54 SERVICES, shall convey by the most expedient means available the infor-  
55 mation contained in such telephone call OR ELECTRONIC REPORT to the

1 appropriate law enforcement agency, district attorney or other public  
2 official empowered to provide necessary aid or assistance.  
3 3. The central register shall include but not be limited to the  
4 following information: all the information in the written AND ELECTRONIC  
5 report; a record of the final disposition of the report, including  
6 services offered and services accepted; the plan for rehabilitative  
7 treatment; the names and identifying data, dates and circumstances of  
8 any person requesting or receiving information from the register; and  
9 any other information which the commissioner believes might be helpful  
10 in the furtherance of the purposes of this chapter.  
11 S 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2017.