STATE OF NEW YORK

3721

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 28, 2021

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

AN ACT to amend the family court act, in relation to requiring that attorneys be available to parents of minors involved in a family court proceeding, and to amend the social services law and the New York city charter, in relation to requiring that all interactions with children by child protective services and the administration for children's services are videotaped

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

Section 1. Article 2 of the family court act is amended by adding a new part 7 to read as follows:

PART 7

ATTORNEYS FOR PARENTS

Section 270. Attorneys for parents.

§ 270. Attorneys for parents. Parents of minors who are the subject of family court proceedings or appeals in proceedings originating in the family court should be represented by counsel of their own choosing or, if a parent or parents so choose not to hire counsel on their own, then counsel shall be assigned to them. Such representation of counsel shall be available or assigned to parents throughout proceedings in their entirety, including, but not limited to, before a petition is filed, at arraignment proceedings, and throughout the courthouse intake process.

§ 2. The social services law is amended by adding a new section 422-d to read as follows:

§ 422-d. Video monitoring of interaction with children. The office of children and family services shall ensure that all interactions between members of child protective services and the children they are assigned to investigate or work with shall be recorded on video, in order to promote accountability and transparency in the investigations and proceedings conducted by child protective services.

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

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§ 3. The New York city charter is amended by adding a new section 619-a to read as follows:

§ 619-a. Video monitoring of interaction with children. The commissioner shall ensure all interactions between members of the administration for children's services and the children they are assigned to investigate or work with shall be recorded on video, in order to promote accountability and transparency in the investigations and proceedings conducted by the administration.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.