

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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66--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

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Introduced by M. of A. HEVESI, EPSTEIN, SIMON, CLARK, JACKSON, RAGA, GIBBS, DE LOS SANTOS, TAPIA, MAMDANI, GONZALEZ-ROJAS, FORREST, SHRESTHA, ROMERO, BUTTENSCHON, TAYLOR, MEEKS, GRIFFIN, GALLAGHER, WOERNER, COLTON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Children and Families -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to the administration of the statewide 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. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 2 of section 422 of the social  
2 services law, as amended by section 6 of subpart A of part JJ of chapter  
3 56 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:  
4 (a) The central register shall be capable of receiving telephone calls  
5 alleging child abuse or maltreatment and of immediately identifying  
6 prior reports of child abuse or maltreatment and capable of monitoring  
7 the provision of child protective service twenty-four hours a day, seven  
8 days a week. To effectuate this purpose, but subject to the provisions  
9 of the appropriate local plan for the provision of child protective  
10 services, there shall be a single statewide telephone number that all  
11 persons, whether mandated by the law or not, may use to make telephone  
12 calls alleging child abuse or maltreatment and that all persons so  
13 authorized by this title may use for determining the existence of prior  
14 reports in order to evaluate the condition or circumstances of a child.  
15 In addition to the single statewide telephone number, there shall be a  
16 special unlisted express telephone number and a telephone facsimile  
17 number for use only by persons mandated by law to make telephone calls,  
18 or to transmit telephone facsimile information on a form provided by the  
19 commissioner of children and family services, alleging child abuse or

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

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1 maltreatment, and for use by all persons so authorized by this title for  
2 determining the existence of prior reports in order to evaluate the  
3 condition or circumstances of a child. When any allegations contained in  
4 such telephone calls could reasonably constitute a report of child abuse  
5 or maltreatment, after utilizing protocols that would reduce implicit  
6 bias from the decision-making process, such allegations, the caller's  
7 name, the caller's contact information and any previous reports to the  
8 central registry involving the subject of such report or children named  
9 in such report, including any previous report containing allegations of  
10 child abuse and maltreatment alleged to have occurred in other counties  
11 and districts in New York state shall be immediately transmitted orally  
12 or electronically by the office of children and family services to the  
13 appropriate local child protective service for investigation. The  
14 inability of the person calling the register to identify the alleged  
15 perpetrator shall, in no circumstance, constitute the sole cause for the  
16 register to reject such allegation or fail to transmit such allegation  
17 for investigation. If the records indicate a previous report concerning  
18 a subject of the report, the child alleged to be abused or maltreated, a  
19 sibling, other children in the household, other persons named in the  
20 report or other pertinent information, the appropriate local child  
21 protective service shall be immediately notified of the fact. If the  
22 report involves either (i) an allegation of an abused child described in  
23 paragraph (i), (ii) or (iii) of subdivision (e) of section one thousand  
24 twelve of the family court act or sexual abuse of a child or the death  
25 of a child or (ii) suspected maltreatment which alleges any physical  
26 harm when the report is made by a person required to report pursuant to  
27 section four hundred thirteen of this title within six months of any  
28 other two reports that were indicated, or may still be pending, involv-  
29 ing the same child, sibling, or other children in the household or the  
30 subject of the report, the office of children and family services shall  
31 identify the report as such and note any prior reports when transmitting  
32 the report to the local child protective services for investigation.

33 § 2. Subdivision 2 of section 422 of the social services law is  
34 amended by adding two new paragraphs (d) and (e) to read as follows:

35 (d) A caller making a report of suspected child abuse or maltreatment  
36 to the central registry shall be asked for their name and contact infor-  
37 mation. No report shall be transmitted to a local child protective  
38 service for investigation unless the caller's name and contact informa-  
39 tion is provided. Except for disclosures authorized by subparagraphs  
40 (a) through (c) and (e) through (bb) of paragraph (A) of subdivision  
41 four of this section, and disclosure to the local child protective  
42 service as required pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision,  
43 neither the commissioner nor the central register shall release the name  
44 and contact information of a caller who made a report of suspected child  
45 abuse or maltreatment unless ordered by an administrative law judge or a  
46 court of competent jurisdiction; provided, however, that this provision  
47 shall not apply to individuals who are mandated to report suspected  
48 child abuse or maltreatment pursuant to section four hundred thirteen of  
49 this title. Prior to the entry of any such order, the petitioner or  
50 social services official may move for a protective order to withhold the  
51 identity of such individual if such disclosure is likely to endanger the  
52 life or health of the person reporting such suspected child abuse or  
53 maltreatment.

54 (e) If a caller declines to provide their name and contact informa-  
55 tion, they will be connected with a supervisor at the central register,  
56 who will inform the caller of the statutory provisions that protect

1 callers' confidentiality. If the caller declines to provide their name  
2 and contact information to the supervisor, the supervisor shall inform  
3 the caller that (i) concerns of suspected abuse or maltreatment may be  
4 addressed through support services if the caller contacts the depart-  
5 ment's HEARS Family Line or community-based service providers and (ii)  
6 knowingly reporting false, retaliatory or baseless allegations is a  
7 violation of subdivision four of section 240.50 of the penal law.

8 § 3. Subdivision 7 of section 422 of the social services law, as  
9 amended by chapter 434 of the laws of 1989, is amended to read as  
10 follows:

11 7. At any time, a subject of a report and other persons named in the  
12 report may receive, upon request, a copy of all information contained in  
13 the central register; provided, however, that the office of children and  
14 family services shall not release information identifying a person who  
15 made a report pursuant to section four hundred fourteen of this title  
16 except with that person's permission or pursuant to subdivision (b) of  
17 section one thousand thirty-eight of the family court act or pursuant to  
18 section four hundred twenty-four-a of this title; and that the commis-  
19 sioner is authorized to prohibit the release of data that would identify  
20 the person who made the report or who cooperated in a subsequent inves-  
21 tigation or the agency, institution, organization, program or other  
22 entity where such person is employed or with which [~~he~~] such person is  
23 associated, which [~~he~~] the commissioner reasonably finds will be detri-  
24 mental to the safety or interests of such person.

25 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that  
26 section one of this act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth  
27 day after it shall have become a law.