STATE OF NEW YORK

9280

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

November 21, 2025

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 removing research restrictions from certain unfounded reports of alleged abuse or maltreatment

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

Section 1. Subparagraphs (iv) and (v) of paragraph (a) of subdivision 5 of section 422 of the social services law, subparagraph (iv) as amended by chapter 555 of the laws of 2000, and subparagraph (v) as amended by chapter 256 of the laws of 2014, are amended and a new subparagraph (vi) is added to read as follows:

(iv) to the subject of the report; [~~and~~]

(v) to a district attorney, an assistant district attorney, an investigator employed in the office of a district attorney, or to a sworn officer of the division of state police, of a city, county, town or village police department or of a county sheriff's office when such official verifies that the report is necessary to conduct an active investigation or prosecution of a violation of subdivision four of section 240.50 of the penal law[~~.~~]; and

(vi) to any person engaged in a bona fide research purpose, provided, however, that no information identifying the subjects of the report and other persons named in the report shall be made available to the researcher unless it is absolutely essential to the research purpose and the department gives prior approval.

§ 2. Subparagraph (vii) of paragraph (d) of subdivision 5 of section 427-a of the social services law, as amended by chapter 377 of the laws of 2011, is amended and a new subparagraph (viii) is added to read as follows:

(vii) the subject of the report included in the records of the family assessment and services track[~~.~~]; and

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

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(viii) any person engaged in a bona fide research purpose, provided, however, that no information identifying the subjects of the report and other persons named in the report and records created shall be made available to the researcher unless it is absolutely essential to the research purpose and the department gives prior approval.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall have become a law.