

1 _____ BILL NO. _____

2 INTRODUCED BY _____
3 (Primary Sponsor)

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A STATEWIDE CENTRAL REGISTRY FOR
5 SUBSTANTIATED REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT; REQUIRING NOTICE AND A HEARING
6 BEFORE AN INDIVIDUAL IS INCLUDED IN THE CENTRAL REGISTRY; ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES
7 FOR EXPUNGEMENT FROM THE CENTRAL REGISTRY; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; AMENDING
8 SECTIONS 41-3-202 AND 41-3-205, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

9
10 WHEREAS, the 5th and 14th Amendments to the United States Constitution prohibit governments from
11 depriving individuals of their liberty or property interests without due process of the law; and

12 WHEREAS, this state has established procedures for collecting and maintaining child abuse and
13 neglect investigation records in a central registry that includes the identities of individuals alleged to have
14 abused or neglected a child; and

15 WHEREAS, the names maintained in Montana's central registry may be disclosed to certain third
16 parties in the course of background checks related to an individual's employment, licensure, and volunteer
17 activities; and

18 WHEREAS, the disclosures may have a significant negative impact on an individual's liberty and
19 property interests, including the loss or denial of employment and the loss of reputation in the community; and

20 WHEREAS, the Legislature wishes to ensure that this state's procedures for listing individuals on the
21 central registry comport with constitutional due process requirements.

22
23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

24
25 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Central registry -- purpose -- determinations.** (1) There is established
26 a statewide central registry to maintain information on individuals who are the subject of substantiated
27 determinations of child abuse or neglect. The information may be made available during a background check of
28 an individual as provided for in 41-3-205 and may affect the individual's ability to volunteer or obtain

1 employment or licensure in areas in which the individual may have unsupervised contact with children, such as
2 child care, foster care, or group home care.

3 (2) For the purposes of [sections 1 through 4], a determination of child abuse or neglect must be
4 categorized according to the following definitions:

5 (a) (i) "Substantiated" means that, following an investigation by the department and a hearing in
6 district court, the court has determined by a preponderance of the evidence that the reported act of child abuse
7 or neglect occurred.

8 (ii) A substantiated determination includes:

9 (A) an individual who admits to an allegation of child abuse or neglect; or

10 (B) an individual who is convicted of a criminal offense related to child abuse or neglect or
11 exploitation of a child.

12 (iii) A substantiated determination may not be based solely on an individual's agreement to comply
13 with a treatment plan created by the department to receive services.

14 (iv) A substantiated determination must be reviewed and upheld by a district court as provided in
15 [section 3].

16 (v) The subject of a substantiated determination may be added to the central registry and must be
17 notified of the consequences of being listed in the central registry, as well as the subject's rights and
18 procedures for requesting expungement from the central registry.

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22 (b) "Unfounded" means that, following an investigation, the department determined that:

23 (i) the report was false;

24 (ii) the report was inherently improbable;

25 (iii) the report involved an accidental injury;

26 (iv) the reported act did not constitute child abuse or neglect; or

27 (v) evidence indicated that the reported act of child abuse or neglect could not have occurred.

28 (c) "Unsubstantiated" means that:

- 1 (i) following an investigation, the department could not determine that the reported act of child
2 abuse or neglect occurred; or
- 3 (ii) following a hearing, the court could not determine by a preponderance of the evidence that the
4 reported act of child abuse or neglect occurred.

5

6 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Central registry -- notice -- procedures.** (1) An individual who is the
7 subject of a child abuse or neglect report that is determined by the department to be substantiated may not be
8 added to the central registry absent notice and a hearing during the adjudication process.

9 (2) Within 14 days of determining that a reported act of child abuse or neglect is substantiated, the
10 department shall provide the individual with certified written notice of the department's intent to add the
11 individual to the central registry. The notice must include:

12 (a) a clear statement of the specific allegations that will be added to the central registry, including
13 the name of the alleged victim, the injuries or harm alleged to have resulted from the child abuse or neglect,
14 and the date on which the report was made;

15 (b) the consequences of being listed in the central registry, including possible negative impacts on
16 the individual's employment, licensure, and ability to have future contact with children, including volunteer and
17 school activities;

18 (c) the maximum amount of time the individual's name may be included in the central registry;

19 (d) a complete copy of the record that will be added to the central registry; and

20 (e) confirmation that the department has requested a substantiation hearing before the district
21 court during the adjudication hearing.

22 (3) The department may not add an individual to the central registry or release information to any
23 third parties until all appeals have been exhausted or waived.

24 (4) If a petition for emergency protective services has been filed with the district court pursuant to
25 41-3-427 in which the allegations of child abuse or neglect are at issue, the hearing on the substantiation
26 determination provided under [section 3] must be held in conjunction with the adjudication hearing provided for
27 in 41-3-437. The individual has a right to counsel as provided in 41-3-425.

28

1 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Central registry -- hearing -- appeal.** (1) Prior to the adjudication
2 hearing, the department shall provide the individual with the full investigative file and any exculpatory evidence
3 within the department's possession or control in accordance with 41-3-205.

4 (2) Discovery prior to the hearing must be conducted in accordance with Title 25, chapter 20, and
5 41-3-431. Following the adjudication hearing, if the district court finds that there is a preponderance of the
6 evidence supporting the department's substantiation determination, the substantiated allegations against the
7 individual may be added to the central registry for a period of time determined by the court, not to exceed 25
8 years and proportionate to:

9 (a) the severity of the act of child abuse or neglect; and

10 (b) the risk of threat or harm to children that the individual poses.

11 (3) If the district court finds that there is insufficient evidence supporting the department's
12 determination, the court shall order the department to amend its findings accordingly and the allegation may not
13 be added to the central registry.

14 (4) The individual has a right to appeal the decision of the district court regarding placement on the
15 central registry.

16
17 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Expungement from central registry.** (1) An individual listed in the
18 central registry may request to have the individual's name expunged from the central registry by submitting a
19 written request to the department accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by a person with personal knowledge
20 stating facts sufficient to show that there is good cause for expungement. Good cause includes but is not
21 limited to:

22 (a) newly discovered evidence that a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect is inaccurate;

23 (b) evidence that the requester no longer poses a risk and that no significant public purpose is
24 served by continued listing of the requester in the state's central registry;

25 (c) evidence that the underlying case on which the substantiated determination was based was
26 closed or dismissed, resulting in reunification, and the requester no longer poses a risk to children;

27 (d) evidence that circumstances that contributed to the finding of abuse or neglect no longer exist;
28 or

1 (e) evidence that actions taken by the requester since the incident of abuse or neglect prevent the
2 reoccurrence of abuse or neglect.

3 (2) (a) An administrator of the department shall review the request within 30 days of receiving the
4 request and determine whether to grant the request.

5 (b) If the request is granted, the department shall expunge the requester's name from the central
6 registry within 30 days and shall:

7 (i) destroy any written electronic or hardcopy records of the department related to the requester's
8 substantiation determination; and

9 (ii) notify the requester and other entities, if appropriate, that the expungement process has been
10 completed.

11 (c) If the request is denied, the department shall notify the requester in writing within 30 days and
12 shall notify the requester of the right to petition the district court for expungement under subsection (3).

13 (3) (a) An individual whose written request for expungement has been denied by the department
14 pursuant to subsection (2) may petition the district court in the county in which the individual resides, requesting
15 that the court expunge the individual's name from the central registry. The petition must name the department
16 as a respondent and must be accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by a person with personal knowledge
17 stating facts sufficient to show that there is good cause for expungement as provided in subsection (1).

18 (b) The court shall hold a hearing on the petition and any response provided by the department
19 unless a hearing is waived by agreement of the parties. At the hearing, the petitioner must be afforded an
20 opportunity to present evidence supporting the petitioner's request for expungement.

21 (c) If the court finds that the petitioner has established good cause for expunging the petitioner's
22 name from the central registry, the court shall grant the petition and shall order the department to:

23 (i) expunge the petitioner's name from the central registry within 30 days:

24 (ii) destroy any written, electronic, or hardcopy records of the department related to the petitioner's
25 substantiation determination; and

26 (iii) notify the petitioner, the court, and other entities, if appropriate, that the expungement process
27 has been completed.

28 (4) An individual who is listed in the central registry shall wait 2 years from the date of the original

1 substantiation determination before requesting expungement.

2 (5) If an individual's request for expungement under this section is denied, the individual shall wait
3 2 years before submitting another request for expungement.

4 (6) (a) An individual listed in the state's central registry prior to [the effective date of this act] may
5 request to have the individual's name expunged from the central registry by following the procedures described
6 in this section.

7 (b) The department shall notify all individuals listed in the central registry on [the effective date of
8 this act] of the right to request expungement under this section.

9 (7) Procedures for the expungement of central registry records, as well as updated phone
10 numbers, addresses, and other contact information for the district court and other relevant parties, must be
11 accessible to the public online and posted in a place that is open for public viewing in child and family services
12 offices.

13 (8) Nothing in this section constitutes a waiver of any right or remedy otherwise available to an
14 individual seeking expungement under this section.

15

16 **Section 5.** Section 41-3-202, MCA, is amended to read:

17 **"41-3-202. Action on reporting.** (1) (a) Upon receipt of a report that a child is or has been abused or
18 neglected, the department shall promptly assess the information contained in the report and make a
19 determination regarding the level of response required and the timeframe within which action must be initiated.

20 (b) (i) Except as provided in subsections (1)(b)(ii) and (1)(b)(iii), upon receipt of a report that
21 includes an allegation of sexual abuse or sexual exploitation when the alleged perpetrator of the sexual abuse
22 or sexual exploitation was 12 years of age or older or if the department determines during any investigation that
23 the circumstances surrounding an allegation of child abuse or neglect include an allegation of sexual abuse or
24 sexual exploitation when the alleged perpetrator of the sexual abuse or sexual exploitation was 12 years of age
25 or older, the department shall immediately report the allegation to the county attorney of the county in which the
26 acts that are the subject of the report occurred.

27 (ii) If a victim of sexual abuse or sexual exploitation has attained the age of 14 and has sought
28 services from a contractor as described in 41-3-201(2)(j) that provides confidential services to victims of sexual

1 assault, conditioned upon an understanding that the criminal conduct will not be reported by the department to
2 the county attorney in the jurisdiction in which the alleged crime occurred, the department may not report
3 pursuant to 41-3-205(5)(d) and subsection (1)(b)(i) of this section.

4 (iii) If the department or law enforcement determines that the allegation involves the county
5 attorney or an employee in the county attorney's office in the county in which the acts that are subject to
6 reporting occurred, the department or law enforcement shall report as required in subsection (1)(b)(i) to the
7 attorney general.

8 (c) If the department determines that an investigation and a safety and risk assessment are
9 required, a child protection specialist shall promptly conduct a thorough investigation into the circumstances
10 surrounding the allegations of abuse or neglect of the child and perform a safety and risk assessment to
11 determine whether the living arrangement presents an unsafe environment for the child. The safety and risk
12 assessment may include an investigation at the home of the child involved, the child's school or day-care
13 facility, or any other place where the child is present and into all other nonfinancial matters that in the discretion
14 of the investigator are relevant to the safety and risk assessment. In conducting a safety and risk assessment
15 under this section, a child protection specialist may not inquire into the financial status of the child's family or of
16 any other person responsible for the child's care, except as necessary to ascertain eligibility for state or federal
17 assistance programs or to comply with the provisions of 41-3-446.

18 (2) An initial investigation of alleged abuse or neglect may be conducted when an anonymous
19 report is received. However, if the initial investigation does not within 48 hours result in the development of
20 independent, corroborative, and attributable information indicating that there exists a current risk of physical or
21 psychological harm to the child, a child may not be removed from the living arrangement. If independent,
22 corroborative, and attributable information indicating an ongoing risk results from the initial investigation, the
23 department shall then conduct a safety and risk assessment.

24 (3) The child protection specialist is responsible for conducting the safety and risk assessment. If
25 the child is treated at a medical facility, the child protection specialist, county attorney, or peace officer,
26 consistent with reasonable medical practice, has the right of access to the child for interviews, photographs,
27 and securing physical evidence and has the right of access to relevant hospital and medical records pertaining
28 to the child. If an interview of the child is considered necessary, the child protection specialist, county attorney,

1 or peace officer may conduct an interview of the child. The interview may be conducted in the presence of the
2 parent or guardian or an employee of the school or day-care facility attended by the child.

3 (4) Subject to 41-3-205(3), if the child's interview is audiotaped or videotaped, an unedited
4 audiotape or videotape with audio track must be made available, upon request, for unencumbered review by
5 the family.

6 (5) (a) If from the safety and risk assessment the department has reasonable cause to suspect that
7 the child is suffering abuse or neglect, the department may provide emergency protective services to the child,
8 pursuant to 41-3-301, or enter into a written prevention plan, pursuant to 41-3-302, and may provide protective
9 services to any other child under the same care. The department shall:

10 (i) after interviewing the parent or guardian, if reasonably available, document the determinations
11 of the safety and risk assessment; and

12 (ii) notify the child's family of the determinations of the safety and risk assessment, unless the
13 notification can reasonably be expected to result in harm to the child or other person.

14 (b) ~~Except as provided in subsection (5)(c), the department shall destroy all safety and risk~~
15 ~~assessment determinations and associated records, except for medical records, within 30 days after the end of~~
16 ~~the 3-year period starting from the date of completion of the safety and risk assessment.~~If the department
17 determines that a report of child abuse or neglect is substantiated and a court upholds this determination
18 pursuant to [sections 1 through 3], the name of the individual who is the subject of the report may be added to
19 the central registry and the records must be maintained for a period of time not to exceed 25 years.

20 (c) ~~Safety and risk assessment determinations and associated records may be maintained for a~~
21 ~~reasonable time as defined by department rule under the following circumstances:~~

22 (i) ~~the safety and risk assessment determines that abuse or neglect occurred;~~

23 (ii) ~~there had been a previous or there is a subsequent report and investigation resulting in a~~
24 ~~safety and risk assessment concerning the same person; or~~

25 (iii) ~~an order has been issued by a court of competent jurisdiction adjudicating the child as a youth~~
26 ~~in need of care based on the circumstances surrounding the initial allegations.~~If the department determines that
27 a report of child abuse or neglect is unsubstantiated, the records must be maintained for 2 years following the
28 close of the investigation.

1 (d) If the department determines that a report of child abuse or neglect is unfounded, the records
2 must be destroyed within 60 days after the close of the investigation.

3 (e) As used in this subsection (5), "substantiated", "unfounded", and "unsubstantiated" have the
4 same meanings as provided in [section 1].

5 (6) The investigating child protection specialist, within 60 days of commencing an investigation,
6 shall also furnish a written safety and risk assessment to the department and, upon request, to the family.
7 Subject to time periods set forth in subsections (5)(b) and (5)(c) subsection (5), the department shall maintain a
8 record system documenting investigations and safety and risk assessment determinations. ~~Unless records are~~
9 ~~required to be destroyed under subsections (5)(b) and (5)(c), the department shall retain records relating to the~~
10 ~~safety and risk assessment, including case notes, correspondence, evaluations, videotapes, and interviews, for~~
11 ~~25 years.~~

12 (7) Any person reporting abuse or neglect that involves acts or omissions on the part of a public or
13 private residential institution, home, facility, or agency is responsible for ensuring that the report is made to the
14 department.

15 (8) The department shall, upon request from any reporter of alleged child abuse or neglect, verify
16 whether the report has been received, describe the level of response and timeframe for action that the
17 department has assigned to the report, and confirm that it is being acted upon."
18

19 **Section 6.** Section 41-3-205, MCA, is amended to read:

20 **"41-3-205. Confidentiality -- disclosure exceptions.** (1) The case records of the department and its
21 local affiliate, the local office of public assistance, the county attorney, and the court concerning actions taken
22 under this chapter and all records concerning reports of child abuse and neglect must be kept confidential
23 except as provided by this section. Except as provided in subsections (9) and (10), a person who purposely or
24 knowingly permits or encourages the unauthorized dissemination of the contents of case records is guilty of a
25 misdemeanor.

26 (2) Records may be disclosed to a court for in camera inspection if relevant to an issue before it.
27 The court may permit public disclosure if it finds disclosure to be necessary for the fair resolution of an issue
28 before it.

1 (3) Records, including case notes, correspondence, evaluations, videotapes, and interviews,
2 unless otherwise protected by this section or unless disclosure of the records is determined to be detrimental to
3 the child or harmful to another person who is a subject of information contained in the records, must, upon
4 request, be disclosed to the following persons or entities in this state and any other state or country:

5 (a) a department, agency, or organization, including a federal agency, military enclave, or Indian
6 tribal organization, that is legally authorized to receive, inspect, or investigate reports of child abuse or neglect
7 and that otherwise meets the disclosure criteria contained in this section;

8 (b) a licensed youth care facility or a licensed child-placing agency that is providing services to the
9 family or child who is the subject of a report in the records or to a person authorized by the department to
10 receive relevant information for the purpose of determining the best interests of a child with respect to an
11 adoptive placement;

12 (c) a health or mental health professional who is treating the family or child who is the subject of a
13 report in the records;

14 (d) a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, brother, sister, guardian, mandatory reporter provided for in
15 41-3-201(2) and (5), or person designated by a parent or guardian of the child who is the subject of a report in
16 the records or other person responsible for the child's welfare, without disclosure of the identity of any person
17 who reported or provided information on the alleged child abuse or neglect incident contained in the records;

18 (e) a child named in the records who was allegedly abused or neglected or the child's legal
19 guardian or legal representative, including the child's guardian ad litem or attorney or a special advocate
20 appointed by the court to represent a child in a pending case;

21 (f) the state protection and advocacy program as authorized by 42 U.S.C. 15043(a)(2);

22 (g) approved foster and adoptive parents who are or may be providing care for a child;

23 (h) a person about whom a report has been made and that person's attorney, with respect to the
24 relevant records pertaining to that person only and without disclosing the identity of the reporter or any other
25 person whose safety may be endangered;

26 (i) an agency, including a probation or parole agency, that is legally responsible for the
27 supervision of an alleged perpetrator of child abuse or neglect;

28 (j) a person, agency, or organization that is engaged in a bona fide research or evaluation project

1 and that is authorized by the department to conduct the research or evaluation;

2 (k) the members of an interdisciplinary child protective team authorized under 41-3-108 or of a
3 family engagement meeting for the purposes of assessing the needs of the child and family, formulating a
4 treatment plan, and monitoring the plan;

5 (l) the coroner or medical examiner when determining the cause of death of a child;

6 (m) a child fatality review team recognized by the department;

7 (n) a department or agency investigating an applicant for a license or registration that is required to
8 operate a youth care facility, day-care facility, or child-placing agency;

9 (o) a person or entity who is carrying out background, employment-related, or volunteer-related
10 screening of current or prospective employees or volunteers who have or may have unsupervised contact with
11 children through employment or volunteer activities. A request for information under this subsection (3)(o) must
12 be made in writing. Disclosure under this subsection (3)(o) is limited to information that indicates a risk to
13 children posed by the person about whom the information is sought, as determined by the department the
14 individual about whom the information is sought is the subject of a substantiated allegation of child abuse or
15 neglect as defined in [section 1].

16 (p) the news media, if disclosure is limited to confirmation of factual information regarding how the
17 case was handled and if disclosure does not violate the privacy rights of the child or the child's parent or
18 guardian, as determined by the department;

19 (q) an employee of the department or other state agency if disclosure of the records is necessary
20 for administration of programs designed to benefit the child;

21 (r) an agency of an Indian tribe, a qualified expert witness, or the relatives of an Indian child if
22 disclosure of the records is necessary to meet requirements of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act [or the
23 Montana Indian Child Welfare Act provided for in Title 41, chapter 3, part 13];

24 (s) a juvenile probation officer who is working in an official capacity with the child who is the
25 subject of a report in the records;

26 (t) an attorney who is hired by or represents the department if disclosure is necessary for the
27 investigation, defense, or prosecution of a case involving child abuse or neglect;

28 (u) a foster care review committee established under 41-3-115 or, when applicable, a citizen

1 review board established under Title 41, chapter 3, part 10;

2 (v) a school employee participating in an interview of a child by a child protection specialist, county
3 attorney, or peace officer, as provided in 41-3-202;

4 (w) a member of a county or regional interdisciplinary child information and school safety team
5 formed under the provisions of 52-2-211;

6 (x) members of a local interagency staffing group provided for in 52-2-203;

7 (y) a member of a youth placement committee formed under the provisions of 41-5-121; or

8 (z) a principal of a school or other employee of the school district authorized by the trustees of the
9 district to receive the information with respect to a student of the district who is a client of the department.

10 (4) (a) The records described in subsection (3) must be disclosed to a member of the United
11 States congress or a member of the Montana legislature if all of the following requirements are met:

12 (i) the member receives a written inquiry regarding a child and whether the laws of the United
13 States or the state of Montana that protect children from abuse or neglect are being complied with or whether
14 the laws need to be changed to enhance protections for children;

15 (ii) the member submits a written request to the department requesting to review the records
16 relating to the written inquiry. The member's request must include a copy of the written inquiry, the name of the
17 child whose records are to be reviewed, and any other information that will assist the department in locating the
18 records.

19 (iii) before reviewing the records, the member:

20 (A) signs a form that outlines the state and federal laws regarding confidentiality and the penalties
21 for unauthorized release of the information; and

22 (B) receives from the department an orientation of the content and structure of the records. The
23 orientation must include a checklist of documents that are regularly included in records, including but not limited
24 to the following:

25 (I) any petition filed pursuant to Title 41, chapter 3, part 4, including any supporting affidavits and
26 evidence;

27 (II) any court orders issued pursuant to Title 41, chapter 3, parts 4 and 6;

28 (III) notes from family engagement meetings and foster care review meetings; and

1 (IV) notes included in electronic case records or in case files maintained in local offices regarding
2 staffing and interactions with parents or legal guardians, providers, or attorneys.

3 (b) (i) Without disclosing the identity of a person who reported the alleged child abuse or neglect,
4 the department shall make available to the member all records concerning the child who is the subject of the
5 written inquiry.

6 (ii) Except as provided in subsection (4)(b)(iii), records disclosed pursuant to this subsection (4)
7 are confidential, may not be copied, photographed, or otherwise replicated by the member, and must remain
8 solely in the department's possession. The member must be allowed to view the records in the local office
9 where the case is or was active.

10 (iii) A member may take notes to discuss the records with a parent or legal guardian about whom a
11 report of alleged child abuse or neglect is made.

12 (c) Access to records requested pursuant to this subsection (4) is limited to 6 months from the date
13 the written request to review records was received by the department.

14 (5) (a) The records described in subsection (3) must be promptly released to any of the following
15 individuals upon a written request by the individual to the department or the department's designee:

16 (i) the attorney general;

17 (ii) a county attorney or deputy county attorney of the county in which the alleged abuse or neglect
18 occurred;

19 (iii) a peace officer, as defined in 45-2-101, in the jurisdiction in which the alleged abuse or neglect
20 occurred; or

21 (iv) the office of the child and family ombudsman.

22 (b) The records described in subsection (3) must be promptly disclosed by the department to an
23 appropriate individual described in subsection (5)(a) or to a county or regional interdisciplinary child information
24 and school safety team established pursuant to 52-2-211 upon the department's receipt of a report indicating
25 that any of the following has occurred:

26 (i) the death of the child as a result of child abuse or neglect;

27 (ii) a sexual offense, as defined in 46-23-502, against the child;

28 (iii) exposure of the child to an actual and not a simulated violent offense as defined in 46-23-502;

1 or

2 (iv) child abuse or neglect, as defined in 41-3-102, due to exposure of the child to circumstances
3 constituting the criminal manufacture or distribution of dangerous drugs.

4 (c) (i) The department shall promptly disclose the results of an investigation to an individual
5 described in subsection (5)(a) or to a county or regional interdisciplinary child information and school safety
6 team established pursuant to 52-2-211 upon the determination that:

7 (A) there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been exposed to a Schedule I or
8 Schedule II drug whose manufacture, sale, or possession is prohibited under state law; or

9 (B) a child has been exposed to drug paraphernalia used for the manufacture, sale, or possession
10 of a Schedule I or Schedule II drug that is prohibited by state law.

11 (ii) For the purposes of this subsection (5)(c), exposure occurs when a child is caused or permitted
12 to inhale, have contact with, or ingest a Schedule I or Schedule II drug that is prohibited by state law or have
13 contact with drug paraphernalia as defined in 45-10-101.

14 (d) (i) Except as provided in subsection (5)(d)(ii), the records described in subsection (3) must be
15 released within 5 business days to the county attorney of the county in which the acts that are the subject of a
16 report occurred upon the department's receipt of a report that includes an allegation of sexual abuse or sexual
17 exploitation. The department shall also report to any other appropriate individual described in subsection (5)(a)
18 and to a county or regional interdisciplinary child information and school safety team established pursuant to
19 52-2-211.

20 (ii) If the exception in 41-3-202(1)(b) applies, a contractor described in 41-3-201(2)(j) that provides
21 confidential services to victims of sexual assault shall report to the department as provided in this part without
22 disclosing the names of the victim and the alleged perpetrator of sexual abuse or sexual exploitation.

23 (iii) When a contractor described in 41-3-201(2)(j) that provides confidential services to victims of
24 sexual assault provides services to youth over the age of 13 who are victims of sexual abuse and sexual
25 exploitation, the contractor may not dissuade or obstruct a victim from reporting the criminal activity and, upon a
26 request by the victim, shall facilitate disclosure to the county attorney and a law enforcement officer as
27 described in Title 7, chapter 32, in the jurisdiction where the alleged abuse occurred.

28 (6) A school or school district may disclose, without consent, personally identifiable information

1 from the education records of a pupil to the department, the court, a review board, and the child's assigned
2 attorney, guardian ad litem, or special advocate.

3 (7) Information that identifies a person as a participant in or recipient of substance abuse treatment
4 services may be disclosed only as allowed by federal substance abuse confidentiality laws, including the
5 consent provisions of the law.

6 (8) The confidentiality provisions of this section must be construed to allow a court of this state to
7 share information with other courts of this state or of another state when necessary to expedite the interstate
8 placement of children.

9 (9) A person who is authorized to receive records under this section shall maintain the
10 confidentiality of the records and may not disclose information in the records to anyone other than the persons
11 described in subsections (3)(a), (4)(b)(iii), and (5). However, this subsection may not be construed to compel a
12 family member to keep the proceedings confidential.

13 (10) A news organization or its employee, including a freelance writer or reporter, is not liable for
14 reporting facts or statements made by an immediate family member under subsection (9) if the news
15 organization, employee, writer, or reporter maintains the confidentiality of the child who is the subject of the
16 proceeding.

17 (11) This section is not intended to affect the confidentiality of criminal court records, records of law
18 enforcement agencies, or medical records covered by state or federal disclosure limitations.

19 (12) Copies of records, evaluations, reports, or other evidence obtained or generated pursuant to
20 this section that are provided to the parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, brother, sister, guardian, or parent's or
21 guardian's attorney must be provided without cost. (Bracketed language in subsection (3)(r) terminates June
22 30, 2025--sec. 55, Ch. 716, L. 2023.)"

23
24 **NEW SECTION. Section 7. Codification instruction.** [Sections 1 through 4] are intended to be
25 codified as a new part in Title 41, chapter 3, and the provisions of Title 41, chapter 3, apply to [sections 1
26 through 4].

27
28 **NEW SECTION. Section 8. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2025.

1

- END -