

1 HB30
2 196694-3
3 By Representatives Reynolds, Robertson and Stringer
4 RFD: Children and Senior Advocacy
5 First Read: 05-MAR-19
6 PFD: 02/14/2019

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8 SYNOPSIS: Existing law provides for full membership in
9 the Alabama Network of Children's Advocacy Centers
10 for child advocacy centers that meet specified
11 requirements.

12 This bill would expand and clarify the
13 existing requirements for full membership in the
14 Alabama Network of Children's Advocacy Centers for
15 child advocacy centers that wish to apply; this
16 bill would also update defined terms.

17
18 A BILL
19 TO BE ENTITLED
20 AN ACT

21
22 To amend Section 26-16-70, Code of Alabama 1975, to
23 expand and clarify the existing requirements for full
24 membership in the Alabama Network of Children's Advocacy
25 Centers for child advocacy centers that wish to apply; and to
26 update defined terms.

27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

1 Section 1. Section 26-16-70, Code of Alabama 1975,
2 is amended to read as follows:

3 "§26-16-70.

4 "(a) For purposes of this section, the following
5 terms have the following meanings:

6 "(1) FORENSIC INTERVIEW. The same meaning as in
7 Section 12-15-301.

8 "(2) LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. The police
9 department for the municipality and the sheriff's department
10 for the county in which a child advocacy center is located.

11 "(3) MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL. A licensed
12 psychiatrist or psychologist.

13 "(b) In order to become eligible for a full
14 membership in the Alabama Network of Children's Advocacy
15 Centers, Incorporated, child advocacy centers in this state
16 shall:

17 "~~(1) Be a private, non-profit incorporated~~
18 Incorporate as a nonprofit agency under the requirements of
19 Section 10A-3-1.01 et seq.

20 "~~(2) Have~~ Utilize a neutral, child-focused facility
21 where ~~joint Department of Human Resources and law enforcement~~
22 forensic interviews, conducted jointly by the Department of
23 Human Resources and law enforcement personnel, take place with
24 children in appropriate cases of suspected child sexual and
25 physical abuse. All multidisciplinary agencies shall ~~have~~
26 utilize a ~~place~~ facility to interact with the child as
27 investigative or treatment needs require.

1 "~~3) Have a minimum~~ Employ or utilize designated
2 staff that ~~is supervised and approved by~~ operate under the
3 supervision and approval of the local board of directors of
4 the child advocacy center.

5 "~~4) Having~~ Maintain a multidisciplinary ~~case review~~
6 team that meets on a regularly scheduled basis or as the case
7 load of the community requires to coordinate the
8 multidisciplinary response to child abuse. ~~The~~ At a minimum,
9 the team shall consist of ~~representatives from the district~~
10 ~~attorney, the Department of Human Resources, mental health,~~
11 ~~law enforcement, and the Child Advocacy Center staff. Medical~~
12 ~~personnel and a victim's advocate may be part of the team.~~ the
13 following:

14 "a. The local district attorney, or his or her
15 designee or designees.

16 "b. One or more representatives from the Department
17 of Human Resources.

18 "c. One or more local mental health professionals.

19 "d. One or more representatives from a local law
20 enforcement agency.

21 "e. The staff of the child advocacy center.

22 "~~5) Provide case tracking of child abuse cases seen~~
23 ~~worked~~ through the center. ~~A center shall also~~ and, at a
24 minimum, collect demographic data on: ~~The number of child~~
25 ~~abuse cases seen at the center by sex, race, age, and other~~
26 ~~relevant data; the number of cases referred for prosecution;~~
27 ~~and the number of cases referred for mental health therapy~~

1 regarding all children referred to the center for services as
2 well as any other data required by the Alabama Network of
3 Child Advocacy Centers.

4 "(6) ~~Provide referrals for~~ Offer on-site medical
5 exams and mental health therapy or provide referrals for
6 off-site medical exams and mental health therapy. The center
7 shall provide follow-up on cases referred for mental health
8 therapy.

9 "(7) Provide training for ~~various disciplines~~
10 multidisciplinary team members in the community that ~~deal with~~
11 respond to cases of possible child abuse.

12 "(8) ~~Have~~ Participate in an interagency ~~commitment~~
13 agreement covering those aspects of agency participation in a
14 multidisciplinary approach to ~~the handling of~~ child sexual and
15 serious physical abuse cases. The agreement must be signed by
16 the following:

17 "a. The local district attorney, or his or her
18 designee.

19 "b. A designee of the Department of Human Resources.

20 "c. A designee of a local law enforcement agency.

21 "d. The director of the child advocacy center.

22 "(9) Provide assurance that staff and volunteers at
23 the center are trained and screened by appropriate resources
24 as specified by the Alabama Network of Children's Advocacy
25 Centers."

26 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
27 first day of the third month following its passage and

1 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law, and
2 is contingent upon the passage of HB_____ of the 2019 Regular
3 Session, relating to statements made by children during
4 forensic interviews.