

By Senator Laurent

12-981-00

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to protective investigations;
3 amending s. 39.301, F.S.; requiring the
4 Department of Children and Family Services to
5 forward to local law-enforcement agencies
6 allegations of criminal conduct received by the
7 central abuse hotline; providing a definition;
8 requiring such agencies to review the
9 information and determine whether a criminal
10 investigation is warranted; providing
11 procedures; providing an effective date.

12
13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

14
15 Section 1. Subsections (2) and (17) of section 39.301,
16 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

17 39.301 Initiation of protective investigations.--

18 (2)(a) The department ~~Upon notification by the~~
19 ~~department's central abuse hotline under subsection (1), the~~
20 ~~designated child protective investigator~~ shall immediately
21 forward allegations of criminal conduct received by the
22 central abuse hotline to the municipality or county ~~notify the~~
23 ~~appropriate~~ law enforcement agency ~~of the county~~ in which the
24 alleged conduct has ~~known or suspected child abuse,~~
25 ~~abandonment, or neglect is believed to have occurred.~~

26 (b) As used in this subsection, the term "criminal
27 conduct" means a violation of s. 827.03, s. 39.201(64), or s.
28 39.302(1). ~~Upon receiving an allegation of criminal conduct~~
29 from the department ~~receipt of a report,~~ the law enforcement
30 agency shall ~~must~~ review the information in the report to ~~and~~
31 determine whether a criminal investigation ~~of the case~~ is

1 warranted ~~and~~, If the law enforcement agency accepts the case
2 for so, shall conduct the criminal investigation that shall be
3 coordinated, it shall coordinate its investigative activities
4 with the department whenever feasible possible, with the child
5 protective investigation of the department or its agent. If
6 the law enforcement agency does not accept the case for
7 criminal investigation, the case shall be referred back to the
8 department.

9 (17) In a child protective investigation, the child
10 protective investigator is responsible for photographing when
11 a law enforcement agency is participating in an investigation,
12 the agency shall take photographs of the child's living
13 environment. Such photographs shall become part of the
14 investigative file.

15 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

16 *****

17
18 SENATE SUMMARY

19 Requires the Department of Children and Family Services
20 to forward to local law enforcement agencies allegations
21 of criminal conduct, as defined, received by the central
22 abuse hotline. Requires such agencies to review the
23 information and determine whether a criminal
24 investigation is warranted. Provides procedures.
25
26
27
28
29
30
31