

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to child psychological abuse; amending
 3 s. 39.01, F.S.; revising the definition of the term
 4 "harm"; amending s. 39.201, F.S.; revising a provision
 5 relating to mandatory reporting requirements for child
 6 abuse, abandonment, or neglect to include child
 7 psychological abuse; requiring the Board of Psychology
 8 within the Department of Health to revise the
 9 continuing education requirements for renewal of a
 10 license to practice psychology to include child
 11 psychological abuse; providing an effective date.

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 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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15 Section 1. Paragraph (m) is added to subsection (30) of
 16 section 39.01, Florida Statutes, to read:

17 39.01 Definitions.—When used in this chapter, unless the
 18 context otherwise requires:

19 (30) "Harm" to a child's health or welfare can occur when
 20 any person:

21 (m) Inflicts mental injury, as defined in subsection (42),
 22 on a child through the use of manipulation or psychological
 23 abuse, including, but not limited to, parental alienation, which
 24 creates a significant developmental pathology, personality
 25 disorder pathology, or delusional-psychiatric pathology as

26 | diagnosed by a mental health professional licensed under chapter
27 | 490 or chapter 491.

28 | Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
29 | 39.201, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

30 | 39.201 Mandatory reports of child abuse, abandonment, or
31 | neglect; mandatory reports of death; central abuse hotline.—

32 | (1)(a) Any person who knows, or has reasonable cause to
33 | suspect, that a child is abused, abandoned, or neglected by a
34 | parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible
35 | for the child's welfare, as defined in this chapter, or that a
36 | child is in need of supervision and care and has no parent,
37 | legal custodian, or responsible adult relative immediately known
38 | and available to provide supervision and care shall report such
39 | knowledge or suspicion to the department in the manner
40 | prescribed in subsection (2). For purposes of the mandatory
41 | reporting requirements in this section, child abuse includes any
42 | harm or mental injury as those terms are defined in s. 39.01.

43 | Section 3. The Board of Psychology within the Department
44 | of Health shall revise the requirements for renewal of a license
45 | to practice psychology, pursuant to s. 490.007, Florida
46 | Statutes, to require continuing education regarding child
47 | psychological abuse, including, but not limited to, abuse
48 | through the use of manipulation or parental alienation.

49 | Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.