

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to children removed from caregivers;
 3 amending s. 409.988, F.S.; requiring community-based
 4 care lead agencies to provide a trauma-focused
 5 assessment to children removed from caregivers by a
 6 specified time; providing requirements for such
 7 assessment; requiring such agencies to offer voluntary
 8 trauma services to children and their families;
 9 amending s. 409.996, F.S.; requiring the Department of
 10 Children and Families to require in its contracts with
 11 lead agencies that such agencies and managing entities
 12 provide a trauma-focused assessment to children
 13 removed from caregivers by a specified time;
 14 conforming a cross-reference; providing an effective
 15 date.

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 17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 19 Section 1. Paragraphs (b) through (n) of subsection (1) of
 20 section 409.988, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
 21 paragraphs (c) through (o), respectively, and a new paragraph
 22 (b) is added to that subsection, to read:

23 409.988 Community-based care lead agency duties; general
 24 provisions.—

25 (1) DUTIES.—A lead agency:

26 (b)1. Shall, in coordination with the local managing
 27 entity, provide a trauma-focused assessment to a child removed
 28 from his or her parent, legal custodian, or caregiver to ensure
 29 that the child is referred promptly to appropriate trauma
 30 services, including clinical evaluation and intervention if
 31 needed. The trauma-focused assessment must occur as soon as
 32 practicable subsequent to the child's removal but no later than
 33 14 days after the shelter hearing. The assessment and therapy,
 34 if recommended, must evaluate and address the impact of the
 35 removal to the child.

36 2. Shall offer voluntary trauma services to a child and
 37 his or her family in the event that a shelter petition is denied
 38 and the child is returned to his or her parent, legal custodian,
 39 or caregiver.

40 Section 2. Paragraphs (b) through (f) of subsection (1) of
 41 section 409.996, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
 42 paragraphs (c) through (g), respectively, paragraph (b) of
 43 subsection (4) is amended, and a new paragraph (b) is added to
 44 subsection (1) of that section, to read:

45 409.996 Duties of the Department of Children and
 46 Families.—The department shall contract for the delivery,
 47 administration, or management of care for children in the child
 48 protection and child welfare system. In doing so, the department
 49 retains responsibility for the quality of contracted services
 50 and programs and shall ensure that, at a minimum, services are

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51 delivered in accordance with applicable federal and state
52 statutes and regulations and the performance standards and
53 metrics specified in the strategic plan created under s.
54 20.19(1).

55 (1) The department shall enter into contracts with lead
56 agencies for the performance of the duties by the lead agencies
57 established in s. 409.988. At a minimum, the contracts must do
58 all of the following:

59 (b) Require lead agencies and managing entities to
60 coordinate to provide a trauma-focused assessment to a child
61 removed from his or her parent, legal custodian, or caregiver to
62 ensure that the child is referred promptly to appropriate trauma
63 services, including clinical evaluation and intervention if
64 needed, as required by s. 409.988(1)(b).

65 (4)

66 (b) The department shall collect and publish on its
67 website, and update monthly, the information required under s.
68 409.988(1)(l) ~~s. 409.988(1)(k)~~.

69 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.