



Senate Aging and Youth Committee

Room 168 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3031
(717) 787-8524
FAX (717) 772-0576

Senator Patricia H. Vance
Chairman

Amy Powell Bolze, Esq.
Executive Director

Summary SB1026 PN 1291

This legislation amends title 23 to create a system for the review and reporting of child fatalities and near fatalities when child abuse is suspected and provides for the release of information to the public.

When a child dies or nearly dies as a result of suspected child abuse, the county children and youth social service agency shall:

- (1) Immediately provide an oral report to the Department of Public Welfare describing any agency involvement with the child and the child's parents and follow up with a written report within 48 hours and
- (2) Convene child fatality and near fatality review teams no later than 31 days from the receipt of the oral report by the department.

Teams shall be convened in the county where the fatality or near fatality occurred and in any county where the child resided in the 12 months preceding the event. Teams shall be comprised of individuals with experience working with children and families.

Child fatality and near fatality review teams are responsible for reviewing the circumstances of the fatality or near fatality, the delivery of services, and the county's compliance with statutes and regulations. Within 90 days of convening, a written report shall be submitted to the Department of Public Welfare and designated county officials. The report shall include deficiencies and strengths as well as recommendations for change.

The Department of Public Welfare will conduct its own review and issue a report on the performance of the county agency. The department must review the report from the county agency and respond to them within 60 days of receipt and must complete their own review and report within six months of receiving initial notification of the suspected child abuse. This information shall be made available to the public if indentifying information is removed.

Effective Date

This act shall take effect in six months.