

SENATE FILE NO. SF0102

Children's advocacy centers.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Jennings, Aullman, Barrasso and  
Cooper and Representative(s) Brechtel,  
Davison and Gingery

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the treatment of abused and neglected  
2 children; providing a definition; providing for  
3 distribution of state funds to children's advocacy centers;  
4 providing criteria for state funded children's advocacy  
5 centers; providing an appropriation; and providing for an  
6 effective date.

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8 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

9

10 **Section 1.** W.S. 1-40-102(a) by creating a new  
11 paragraph (xii) and 1-40-118(b) by creating a new paragraph  
12 (viii) and by creating new subsections (h) and (j) are  
13 amended to read:

14

15 **1-40-102. Definitions.**

16

1 (a) As used in this act:

2

3 (xii) "Children's advocacy center" means a  
4 center that serves child victims of sexual and physical  
5 abuse and neglect in accordance with the requirements of  
6 W.S. 1-40-118(h).

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8 **1-40-118. Distribution of monies to crime victim**  
9 **service and victim assistance providers.**

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11 (b) For purposes of this section "crime victim  
12 service provider" means any program operated by a public  
13 agency or nonprofit organization or any combination thereof  
14 which provides comprehensive services to victims of crime,  
15 including but not limited to:

16

17 (viii) Children's advocacy centers.

18

19 (h) To the extent the legislature provides funding  
20 for children's advocacy centers that serve child victim's  
21 of sexual and physical abuse, the division shall:

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1           (i) Distribute the state funding based on  
2 submitted applications from eligible children's advocacy  
3 centers that comply with the provisions of this subsection;

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5           (ii) Establish minimum program standards and  
6 reporting requirements for children's advocacy centers that  
7 receive state funding under this subsection in accordance  
8 with W.S. 9-1-638(a)(vii);

9  
10           (iii) Promulgate rules requiring children's  
11 advocacy centers that receive state funding to:

12  
13           (A) Coordinate and facilitate a team  
14 approach for the treatment and service of abused and  
15 neglected children;

16  
17           (B) Provide services, forensic interviewing  
18 and counseling to any maltreated, neglected or abused  
19 child, including those children who have lived in a home  
20 where controlled substances were used illegally, who have  
21 witnessed a crime or have been affected by criminal  
22 activity;

23

1                   (C) Provide a forum for interdisciplinary  
2 case review of child abuse and neglect cases with the goal  
3 of increasing cooperation among the various agencies tasked  
4 with providing services for victims of child abuse and  
5 neglect;

6  
7                   (D) Increase community awareness of child  
8 abuse and neglect through education and prevention programs  
9 in partnership with national and state child abuse  
10 prevention programs;

11  
12                   (E) Submit an application for state funding  
13 to the division for approval. The application shall state  
14 the manner in which the children's advocacy center is  
15 achieving the requirements of this subsection; and

16  
17                   (F) Advocate to ensure victims are allowed  
18 to exercise their rights under the victims bill of rights  
19 established in W.S. 1-40-203.

20  
21                   (j) Any expenses incurred in implementing  
22 subsection (h) of this section shall be paid by the  
23 division and shall not exceed five percent (5%) of the  
24 funding appropriated for children's advocacy centers.

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2           **Section 2.** There is appropriated one million five  
3 hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000.00) from the general  
4 fund to be expended by the office of the attorney general  
5 for the purposes of this act beginning July 1, 2007 and  
6 ending June 30, 2008.

7

8           **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2007.

9

10 (END)