

SENATE FILE NO. SF0115

Protective services investigation amendments.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Nutting

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to child and adult protective services;  
2 amending requirements for investigations; amending  
3 definitions; establishing a standard of proof; and  
4 providing for an effective date.

5

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

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8 **Section 1.** W.S. 14-3-204(a)(iii)(intro),  
9 14-3-206(a)(i) and 35-20-102(a)(xix) are amended to read:

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11 **14-3-204. Duties of local child protective agency.**

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13 (a) The local child protective agency shall:

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15 (iii) Within twenty-four (24) hours after  
16 notification of a suspected case of child abuse or neglect,  
17 initiate an investigation or assessment ~~and verification of~~

1 to verify every report. The representative of the child  
2 protective agency shall, at the initial time of contact  
3 with the individual subject to a child abuse and neglect  
4 investigation or assessment, advise the individual of the  
5 specific complaints or allegations made against the  
6 individual. A thorough investigation or assessment and  
7 report of child abuse or neglect shall be made in the  
8 manner and time prescribed by the state agency pursuant to  
9 rules and regulations adopted in accordance with the  
10 Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act. If the child  
11 protective agency is denied reasonable access to a child by  
12 a parent or other persons and the agency deems that the  
13 best interest of the child so requires, it shall seek an  
14 appropriate court order by ex parte proceedings or other  
15 appropriate proceedings to see the child. The child  
16 protective agency shall assign a report:

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18 **14-3-206. Child abuse or neglect; written report;**  
19 **statewide reporting center; documentation; costs and**  
20 **admissibility thereof.**

21

22 (a) Reports of child abuse or neglect or of suspected  
23 child abuse or neglect made to the local child protective  
24 agency or local law enforcement agency shall be:

1

2 (i) Conveyed immediately by the agency receiving  
3 the report to the appropriate local child protective agency  
4 or local law enforcement agency. The agencies shall  
5 continue cooperating and coordinating with each other  
6 during the assessment or investigation; and

7

8 **35-20-102. Definitions.**

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10 (a) As used in this act:

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12 (xix) "Substantiated report" means any report of  
13 abandonment, abuse, exploitation, intimidation or neglect  
14 pursuant to this act that is determined upon investigation  
15 to establish ~~that credible evidence of~~ by a preponderance  
16 of the evidence the alleged abandonment, abuse,  
17 exploitation, intimidation or neglect; ~~exists;~~

18

19 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2013.

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21

(END)