

Fifty-seventh
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2384

Introduced by

Senator Watne

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 50-25.1-05.1 of the North Dakota Century
2 Code, relating to the determination of when services are required for the protection and
3 treatment of an abused or neglected child.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-25.1-05.1 of the North Dakota Century Code
6 is amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **50-25.1-05.1. Services required - How determined.** ~~Upon~~ Unless the information is
8 confidential under section 44-04-18.7, upon completion of the assessment of the initial report of
9 child abuse or neglect, a decision must be made whether services are required to provide for
10 the protection and treatment of an abused or neglected child.

11 1. This determination is the responsibility of the department.

12 2. A decision that services are required may not be made where the suspected child
13 abuse or neglect arises solely out of conduct involving the legitimate practice of
14 religious beliefs by a parent or guardian. This exception does not preclude a court
15 from ordering that medical services be provided to the child where the child's life or
16 safety requires it or the child is subject to harm or threatened harm.

17 3. When a decision is made that services are required to provide for the protection
18 and treatment of an abused or neglected child, the department shall make a
19 good-faith effort to provide written notice of the decision to persons identified in
20 subsection 9 of section 50-25.1-11. The department shall consider any known
21 domestic violence when providing notification under this section.