

Sixty-second
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1085

Introduced by

Human Services Committee

(At the request of the Department of Human Services)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 50-11.1-07.8 and 50-25.1-11 of the North
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to ~~suspension of~~conditions on an early childhood license,
3 self-declaration, or registration document involving a child abuse and neglect investigation and
4 to the confidentiality of child abuse and neglect records and information.

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

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-11.1-07.8 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **50-11.1-07.8. Suspension of license, self-declaration, or registration document -**
9 **Investigation upon a report of child abuse or neglect - Notification to parent.**

10 1. The department may ~~suspend~~:

11 a. Suspend a license, self-declaration, or registration document during an
12 investigation of~~prohibit~~at any time after the onset of a child abuse and neglect
13 investigation alleging the owner or operator, the holder of a self-declaration, or
14 the in-home provider has committed child abuse, including child sexual abuse, or
15 has neglected a child and law enforcement has been involved, if continued
16 operation is likely to jeopardize the health and safety of the children.

17 b. Suspend upon a child abuse or neglect services required determination indicating
18 that a child has been abused or neglected by the owner or operator, the holder of
19 a self-declaration, or the in-home provider if continued operation is likely to
20 jeopardize the health and safety of the children present.

21 c. Prohibit the presence of an accused owner, operator, holder of a self-declaration,
22 in-home provider, staff member, or household member of the early childhood
23 program, self-declaration, or in-home provider from the early childhood premises
24 when children are in child care, upon a report of child abuse or neglect at the

premises of the licensed program, holder of the self-declaration, or registration,
or ~~involving~~ a staff member or household member if continued operation
~~would~~ the presence of the accused individual is likely to jeopardize the health
and safety of the children present.

2. Notwithstanding sections 50-11.1-07 and 50-25.1-11, the department ~~shall~~:

a. Shall notify the parent of any child receiving early childhood services when that
program's license, self-declaration, or registration document is suspended.

b. May notify the parent of any child receiving early childhood services when an
owner, operator, holder of a self-declaration, in-home provider, adult staff
member, or adult household member of the program providing care of the child is
under investigation under subsection 1.

c. May notify the parent of any child receiving early childhood services that a staff
member or household member is under investigation under subsection 1 if the
staff member or household member is a minor.

3. Upon the conclusion and disposition of the investigation ~~of the program~~, the
department shall notify the parent of each child receiving early childhood services of
the disposition.

4. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, a suspension any action taken under this
section may preclude an individual's ability to operate pending an appeal.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 50-25.1-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is
amended and reenacted as follows:

50-25.1-11. Confidentiality of records - Authorized disclosures.

1. A report made under this chapter, as well as any other information obtained, is
confidential and must be made available to:

~~1.a.~~ A physician who has before the physician a child whom the physician reasonably
suspects may have been abused or neglected.

~~2.b.~~ A person who is authorized to place a child in protective custody and has before
the person a child whom the person reasonably suspects may have been abused
or neglected and the person requires the information to determine whether to
place the child in protective custody.

- 3-c. Authorized staff of the department and its authorized agents, children's advocacy centers, and appropriate state and local child protection team members, and citizen review committee members.
- 4-d. Any person who is the subject of the report; provided, however, that the identity of persons reporting or supplying information under this chapter is protected until the information is needed for use in an administrative proceeding arising out of the report.
- 5-e. Public officials and their authorized agents who require the information in connection with the discharge of their official duties.
- 6-f. A court, including an administrative hearing office, whenever the court determines that the information is necessary for the determination of an issue before the court.
- 7-g. A person engaged in a bona fide research purpose approved by the department's institutional review board; provided, however, that no individually identifiable information as defined in section 50-06-15 is made available to the researcher unless the information is absolutely essential to the research purpose and the department gives prior approval.
- 8-h. A person who is identified in subsection 1 of section 50-25.1-03, and who has made a report of suspected child abuse or neglect, if the child is likely to or continues to come before the reporter in the reporter's official or professional capacity.
- 9-i. A parent or a legally appointed guardian of the child identified in the report as suspected of being, or having been, abused or neglected, provided the identity of persons making the report or supplying information under this chapter is protected. Unless the information is confidential under section 44-04-18.7, when a decision is made under section 50-25.1-05.1 that services are required to provide for the protection and treatment of an abused or neglected child, the department shall make a good-faith effort to provide written notice of the decision to persons identified in this subsection. The department shall consider any known domestic violence when providing notification under this section.

1 2. The parent or legally appointed guardian of a child receiving early childhood services
2 under chapter 50-11.1 may receive the name of the subject, a summary of the facts,
3 and the results of an assessment conducted under this chapter if the report made
4 under this chapter involves the owner, operator, staff member, or household member
5 of the early childhood program, the holder of a self-declaration or a household
6 member of the holder of a self-declaration, or the in-home provider or a household
7 member of the in-home provider, who is providing care to the child. The department
8 shall make a good-faith effort to provide written notice of the results of an assessment
9 conducted under this chapter to parents or legally appointed guardians identified in
10 this subsection.