

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 license, self-declaration, or registration
3 document involving a child abuse and neglect investigation and to the confidentiality of child
4 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 **Notification to parent.**

- 10 1. The department may ~~suspend a license, self-declaration, or registration document~~
11 ~~during an investigation of~~ prohibit the presence of an owner, operator, holder of a
12 self-declaration, in-home provider, staff member, or household member of the early
13 childhood program, self-declaration, or in-home provider from the early childhood
14 premises when children are in child care, upon a report of child abuse or neglect at the
15 premises of the licensed program, holder of the self-declaration, or registration, or
16 ~~of~~ involving a staff member if continued operation would jeopardize the health and
17 safety of the children present.
- 18 2. Notwithstanding sections 50-11.1-07 and 50-25.1-11, the department shall notify the
19 parent of any child receiving early childhood services when that program's license,
20 self-declaration, or registration document is suspended.
- 21 3. Upon the conclusion and disposition of the investigation of the program, the
22 department shall notify the parent of each child receiving early childhood services of
23 the disposition.

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

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

5 **50-25.1-11. Confidentiality of records - Authorized disclosures.**

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

8 4.a. A physician who has before the physician a child whom the physician reasonably
9 suspects may have been abused or neglected.

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

14 3.c. Authorized staff of the department and its authorized agents, children's advocacy
15 centers, and appropriate state and local child protection team members, and
16 citizen review committee members.

17 4.d. Any person who is the subject of the report; provided, however, that the identity
18 of persons reporting or supplying information under this chapter is protected until
19 the information is needed for use in an administrative proceeding arising out of
20 the report.

21 5.e. Public officials and their authorized agents who require the information in
22 connection with the discharge of their official duties.

23 6.f. A court, including an administrative hearing office, whenever the court determines
24 that the information is necessary for the determination of an issue before the
25 court.

26 7.g. A person engaged in a bona fide research purpose approved by the department's
27 institutional review board; provided, however, that no individually identifiable
28 information as defined in section 50-06-15 is made available to the researcher
29 unless the information is absolutely essential to the research purpose and the
30 department gives prior approval.

1 8-h. A person who is identified in subsection 1 of section 50-25.1-03, and who has
2 made a report of suspected child abuse or neglect, if the child is likely to or
3 continues to come before the reporter in the reporter's official or professional
4 capacity.

5 9-i. A parent or a legally appointed guardian of the child identified in the report as
6 suspected of being, or having been, abused or neglected, provided the identity of
7 persons making the report or supplying information under this chapter is
8 protected. Unless the information is confidential under section 44-04-18.7, when
9 a decision is made under section 50-25.1-05.1 that services are required to
10 provide for the protection and treatment of an abused or neglected child, the
11 department shall make a good-faith effort to provide written notice of the decision
12 to persons identified in this subsection. The department shall consider any known
13 domestic violence when providing notification under this section.

14 2. The parent or legally appointed guardian of a child receiving early childhood services
15 under chapter 50-11.1 may receive the name of the subject, a summary of the facts,
16 and the results of an assessment conducted under this chapter if the report made
17 under this chapter involves the owner, operator, staff member, or household member
18 of the early childhood program, the holder of a self-declaration or a household
19 member of the holder of a self-declaration, or the in-home provider or a household
20 member of the in-home provider, who is providing care to the child. The department
21 shall make a good-faith effort to provide written notice of the results of an assessment
22 conducted under this chapter to parents or legally appointed guardians identified in
23 this subsection.