

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 upon a report involving a child abuse and neglect
4 investigation and 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 a license, self-declaration, or registration document
11 during an investigation of ~~or may~~ prohibit the presence of an accused owner, operator,
12 holder of a self-declaration, in-home provider, staff member, or household member of
13 the early childhood program, self-declaration, or in-home provider from the early
14 childhood premises when children are in child care, upon a report of child abuse or
15 neglect at the premises of the licensed program, holder of the self-declaration, or
16 registration, or e~~involving a staff member~~ or household member if continued operation
17 ~~would~~ or the presence of the accused individual is likely to jeopardize the health and
18 safety of the children present.

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

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

22 b. Shall notify the parent of any child receiving early childhood services when an
23 owner, operator, holder of a self-declaration, in-home provider, adult staff

member, or adult household member of the program providing care to 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.

1 6-f. A court, including an administrative hearing office, whenever the court determines
2 that the information is necessary for the determination of an issue before the
3 court.

4 7-g. A person engaged in a bona fide research purpose approved by the department's
5 institutional review board; provided, however, that no individually identifiable
6 information as defined in section 50-06-15 is made available to the researcher
7 unless the information is absolutely essential to the research purpose and the
8 department gives prior approval.

9 8-h. A person who is identified in subsection 1 of section 50-25.1-03, and who has
10 made a report of suspected child abuse or neglect, if the child is likely to or
11 continues to come before the reporter in the reporter's official or professional
12 capacity.

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

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

