

HB 1453: Reporters Not Made Anonymously Requesting Disposition

Section 210.145.15 of HB 1453 allows mandated reporters **and any permissive reporter that provides his/her name** shall be informed of their right to obtain information concerning the disposition of the report.

Current Policy:

- Staff is required to initiate contact with the mandated reporter to provide feedback about family w/in 5 days of concluding the report.
- “General disposition” of report includes: date report was concluded, facts utilized to reach conclusion, whether or not referrals were made to community or to juvenile court.
- Release of information at the discretion of the director, based on reporter’s ability to assist in protecting the child or the potential harm to child or other children in the home.

New Policy:

- Reporters who provide his/her name and contact information shall be informed by the worker at the time of initial contact of their right to obtain information concerning the disposition of the report;
- Permissive reporters must *request in writing*, findings and information concerning the case;
- Release of information at discretion of director (same as above current policy);
- Local office shall respond to the reporter’s request within 45 days;
- At the time of the worker’s contact with any reporter, in which the name and contact information is known, the worker will inform the reporter if the report is determined to be unsubstantiated, the reporter may request, *in writing*, that the report be referred by the division to the Office of Child Advocate. If requested, staff shall forward a copy of the CA/N report to Office of Child Advocate Director.
- Staff will notify the mandated reporter, or permissive reporter if requested, of the disposition using the new CS-21B.
- *See CS-21 B Reporter Disposition Notification Letter*
- Circuit Manager or designee are encouraged to review the CA/N report prior to forwarding a copy of the report to the Office of the Child Advocate
- CS-21 and CS-24 have been modified informing parents that their report, if found unsubstantiated, may be referred to the Office of the Child Advocate

Policy Impact:

Allows broader sharing of information about the disposition of cases and other information.