

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0018

Child abuse or neglect in military families.

Sponsored by: Joint Judiciary Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to child protection; specifying duties of
2 the department of family services and local protection
3 agencies; requiring inquiry into the military status of
4 persons and children in a child abuse or neglect case as
5 specified; amending reporting requirements in specified
6 child abuse or neglect cases; and providing for an
7 effective date.

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9 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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11 **Section 1.** W.S. 14-3-203(c) by creating a new
12 paragraph (vi), 14-3-204(a)(viii), (ix) and by creating a
13 new paragraph (x) and 14-3-206(a)(i) and (ii)(intro) are
14 amended to read:

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16 **14-3-203. Duties of state agency; on-call services.**

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2 (c) The state agency shall ensure that all child
3 protective service workers are trained:

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5 (vi) To make reasonable efforts to determine if
6 the person responsible for the welfare of a child in a
7 suspected case of child abuse or neglect is a member of the
8 armed forces or if the child is enrolled in the defense
9 enrollment eligibility reporting system of the United
10 States department of defense.

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12 **14-3-204. Duties of local child protective agency.**

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14 (a) The local child protective agency shall:

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16 (viii) When the best interest of the child
17 requires court action, contact the county and prosecuting
18 attorney to initiate legal proceedings and assist the
19 county and prosecuting attorney during the proceedings. If
20 the county attorney elects not to bring court action the
21 local child protective agency may petition the court for
22 appointment of a guardian ad litem who shall act in the
23 best interest of the child and who may petition the court

1 to direct the county attorney to show cause why an action
2 should not be commenced under W.S. 14-3-401 through
3 14-3-439; ~~and~~

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5 (ix) Refer a child receiving department services
6 who is under the age of six (6) years to the department of
7 health, division of developmental disabilities preschool
8 program for educational and developmental screening and
9 assessment; ~~and~~ and

10

11 (x) Make reasonable efforts to determine if the
12 person responsible for the welfare of a child in a
13 suspected case of child abuse or neglect is a member of the
14 armed forces or if the child is enrolled in the defense
15 enrollment eligibility reporting system of the United
16 States department of defense.

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18 **14-3-206. Child abuse or neglect; written report;**
19 **statewide reporting center; documentation; costs and**
20 **admissibility thereof.**

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1 (a) Reports of child abuse or neglect or of suspected
2 child abuse or neglect made to the local child protective
3 agency or local law enforcement agency shall be:

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5 (i) Conveyed immediately by the agency receiving
6 the report to the appropriate local child protective agency
7 or local law enforcement agency and, if the person
8 responsible for the welfare of a child is a member of the
9 armed forces or if the child is enrolled in the defense
10 enrollment eligibility reporting system of the United
11 States department of defense, to the state judge advocate
12 for the Wyoming military department. The agencies shall
13 continue cooperating and coordinating with each other
14 during the assessment or investigation; and

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16 (ii) Followed by a written report by the
17 receiving agency confirming or not confirming the facts
18 reported. The report shall provide to law enforcement, ~~or~~
19 the local child protective agency and the state judge
20 advocate for the Wyoming military department when
21 appropriate, the following, to the extent available:

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1 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2017.

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(END)