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# CHILDREN'S LAW REPORT

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## April Is Child Abuse Prevention Month

About 750,000 blue ribbons will be handed out across South Carolina by local advocacy groups during April, Child Abuse Prevention Month. A coalition of 18 groups headed by the Council on Child Abuse and Neglect and the South Carolina Department of Social Services will distribute the ribbons and other awareness materials to schools, churches, child-care centers and businesses. Adults will receive lapel ribbons on a card that includes a family self-esteem checklist. Children will receive sticker ribbons that say, "I'm a terrific kid of a cool parent!"

The blue ribbon campaign began in 1989 when Bonnie Finney of Virginia began wearing a blue ribbon as a testimonial to her grandson, who had been murdered by

his mother's abusive boyfriend. The blue reminded her of the bruises she had seen on the 3-year-old's body, and Finney wore the ribbon as "a constant reminder to fight for protection of our children."

In South Carolina the month's theme is: *Happy Childhoods Last a Lifetime*. "Happy, healthy children lead to strong healthy adults who create more happy children," said Beebe James, Executive Director of the Council on Child Abuse and Neglect. "Conversely, parents who were abused or neglected as children are more likely to create or experience abuse in adulthood."

In South Carolina, 21,211 cases of child abuse and neglect were reported to DSS during the 1995-96 fiscal year. Of those, 5,871, or 27 percent, were indicated.

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### Groups Focus on Domestic Violence

On January 21, 1997, the Children's Law Project sponsored a round table discussion on the connection between domestic violence and child abuse and neglect. Battered adult victims often make tough choices: they stay in dangerous situations for fear that if they flee, they will lose their children to CPS or face custody battles that lead to more intense violence against themselves or their children.<sup>1</sup> The round table was an opportunity for professionals (attorneys, DSS caseworkers, battered women shelter providers and counselors, social workers and guardians *ad litem*) to develop a dialogue around the issue of protecting children in violent homes and supporting the abused spouse (person).

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<sup>1</sup> Start at the Beginning: Preventing Violence by Protecting Children From Violent Homes, *Children's Law Report*, September-November 1996, p. 5.

Dr. Evan Stark, Associate Professor of Rutgers University and author of Women at Risk and Domestic Violence and Health, led a discussion regarding the issues of domestic violence and child abuse and neglect. Dr. Stark described domestic violence as a crime involving control, emotional harm and domination that leads to entrapment. The coercive control by the abuser may also result in physical neglect of the children, due to the mother's inability to parent. A key dilemma for the mother (or abused person) is ensuring her safety along with preventing the removal of her children by the Department of Social Services.

The children are affected by the domestic violence in many ways:

- a. Physical abuse (direct and indirect);
- b. Control of the mother that extends to control of the child;
- c. Emotional trauma (witnessing the abuse of the mother);
- d. The child may have a change in behavior such as bed wetting and nightmares.

Dr. Stark suggested one way to resolve this problem is to develop a network between service providers (judges, shelter providers, prosecutors, child protective services workers and law enforcement) and to establish a protocol on how child protective services should deal with domestic violence cases. Education and training for all professionals on these issues are key. The participants at the round table agreed on several priority areas such as more networking between agencies and nonprofit organizations, cross training between professionals, multidisciplinary response in the form of pilot programs, concrete guidelines for child protective services to assess domestic violence cases and developing local protocols that can respond to the needs of the community.

The Children Protection Reform Act of 1996 allows law enforcement, upon receipt of a report of domestic violence, to report this information to the Department of Social Services. DSS may investigate the report as any other allegation of abuse and neglect. The Department of Social Services has the opportunity to develop a protocol on how to handle child safety cases when domestic violence is involved. Other states such as Massachusetts, Hawaii, and Michigan have developed safety plans for the family that also hold the offenders accountable.

Dr. Stark suggests that the child protective services agency hold the interviews with the abused person in private. There should be a strong relationship between the child protection agency and the local shelter provider. The abusing person should be held accountable for his or her actions. The child protective services worker should assess for risk of harm to the abused adult and the child and make the appropriate referrals.

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Public Law 104-193, allows for states to address the issue of domestic violence under the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) provisions. The Wellstone-Murray Amendment gives states the option to increase services and waive program requirements for abused persons of domestic violence. The agency can establish the following procedures:

- a. Screen and identify individuals receiving assistance with a history of domestic violence while maintaining confidentiality of such persons;
- b. Provide referrals to counseling and supportive services;
- c. Make good cause waivers for certain provisions such as time limits, residency requirements, child support cooperation requirements, and the family cap provisions.

The South Carolina Department of Social Services is considering adopting several provisions of the Wellstone-Murray Amendment.

## Child Abuse Investigation Training

A series of training seminars on child abuse investigation is being held in various locations in the state. The five-day course is divided into three parts: Part I (2 days) focuses on injury reconstruction in physical abuse cases. Part II (2 days) addresses sexual abuse, including management of multiple victim / multiple perpetrator cases, medical evidence, incest investigations, and child interviews. Part III (1 day) covers preparation for family court and criminal proceedings, including identification of witnesses, evidentiary requirements, and case presentation. Participants may attend selected parts or the entire course.

The primary trainer is Bill Hammond, law enforcement consultant. Mr. Hammond is a former law enforcement officer and was the national project director

for the Missing and Exploited Children Comprehensive Action Program (M/Cap). Other presenters are Elizabeth Baker, MD; Rebecca Streett, MA; Mary Williams, JD; and Heidi Holland, JD.

This training is approved for law enforcement recertification, social work licensure, and continuing legal education credits. Remaining dates and locations are:

**Greenville:** Part III - April 23;  
**Conway:** Part II - April 10-11; Part III - May 9;  
**Beaufort:** Part II - April 21-22; Part III - May 16;  
**Columbia:** Part I - April 7-8; Part II - April 24-25;  
 Part III - May 23;

Some comments from recent attendees are:

- ◆ *Some of the best training I have ever had. Super job of presenting material that was relevant.*
- ◆ *A great presenter; very informative. Get him back!*
- ◆ *Excellent presentation, very interesting and relevant.*
- ◆ *Wish the seminar was longer so we could cover more. Excellent instructor.*

## Training for Guardians ad Litem

"Intra-familial Sexual Abuse: A Workshop for Guardians *ad Litem*" will be held on April 18 in Charleston and June 6 in Greenville. This workshop is designed for guardians *ad litem*, whether volunteers or attorneys, who represent children in sexual abuse cases. The information presented will enhance the guardian's ability to conduct assessments and develop recommendations. Speakers will address issues related to the child victim, the perpetrator, the nonoffending parent, medical evidence, and court presentation. Registration is only \$10. The course has been approved for 5.25 continuing legal education hours.

## A Call to Faith Communities

Clergy and concerned lay persons will explore ways faith communities can prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect at a seminar scheduled at four locations in the Midlands and Pee Dee areas this spring. The seminar, "Protecting Our Children: A Call to Faith Communities," is being sponsored by the Council on Child Abuse and Neglect and the Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault. Topics include prevention and response strategies, risk factors for abuse and neglect,

the profound impact of abuse on children, new information on reporting requirements for clergy, and an overview of resources. There will be extensive dialogue and information sharing to help clergy provide leadership in addressing abuse and neglect issues within and beyond their congregations.

For more information or registration forms, contact the Council on Child Abuse and Neglect at (803) 733-5430 or the Pee Dee Coalition at (803) 669-4694.

## Retroactivity of Child Protection Reform Act

The Children's Law Project has prepared a legal memorandum on the application of the Child Protection Reform Act to cases which existed when the Act took effect 1/1/97. Various aspects of the law are analyzed in terms of retroactivity. To obtain a copy, call (803) 777-1646.

## Recent Court Decisions

**DSS v. Beeks**, Opinion No. 24581 - Filed Feb. 18, 1997

The South Carolina Supreme Court in South Carolina Department of Social Services v. Beeks, et. al., reversed and remanded the lower court's order in the child abuse case. The child was removed from the parent's custody and placed in foster care after the child alleged that family members had sexual abused him/her. The allegations were consistent with the medical findings of sexual abuse. The South Carolina Department of Social Services and the father completed the presentation of their evidence. The mother presented her evidence except for the examination of the child. The child's hearsay statements were admitted into evidence. The judge granted the mother the opportunity to depose the child. The GAL submitted a final report, but did not testify. The judge issued her final order without having the child's deposition. The order included a finding of sexual abuse and provisions prohibiting the minor from having any contact with some members of the mother's family. The sole issue on the appeal was whether the mother was denied her due process rights by being precluded from presenting relevant evidence and denied the opportunity to cross examine the GAL.

The Supreme Court ruled that "the mother was denied the opportunity to examine, cross-examine, defend her interest or to be meaningfully heard."

**Skeen v. State**, Opinion No. 24571 - Filed Feb. 3, 1997.

Skeen was convicted of criminal sexual conduct with a minor in January 1993. He later filed for post conviction relief alleging ineffective assistance of counsel. The PCR judge denied Skeen relief, and Skeen petitioned the South Carolina Supreme Court for writ of certiorari.

Skeen contended that his trial "counsel was ineffective in three respects: (1) in failing to move for a continuance of the trial date; (2) in failing to object to certain hearsay statements by the [victim's] mother; and (3) in failing to prepare and conduct appropriate cross examination of the State's doctor and of [the victim] himself."

Regarding the continuance, the Court noted that, "there was no evidence presented at the PCR hearing showing how additional preparation would have had any possible effect on the result." Nor did Skeen "point to any admissible evidence he could have produced that would have been helpful to his case." Regarding the statements of the victim's mother, the Court indicated that "most of this testimony would have been admissible as a hearsay exception." Finally, Skeen contends that the State's doctor gave inconsistent statements and that his attorney failed to effectively cross examine her on that. The Court disagreed, saying that the doctor's testimony was "not necessarily inconsistent with [her] statement to police; rather, the testimony clarified and elaborated on both the material in the report and her earlier testimony."

Finally, in all respects the Court held that Skeen failed to show that he was prejudiced by any of the alleged ineffective assistance of counsel and affirmed the order of the PCR judge.

## Rohypnol is more than "the date rape drug."

Within the past year media attention has focused on frightening stories of women being drugged and sexually assaulted. The drug that received the most attention was flunitrazepam, more commonly known by its trade-name, Rohypnol. Flunitrazepam is one of a widely used class of prescription medications called benzodiazepines - the most commonly known one being diazepam (Valium).

Rohypnol is manufactured by F. Hoffman-La Roche Ltd. in Switzerland and other countries. It is not manufactured or marketed in the United States. In the countries where its use is approved, it is prescribed

primarily to treat sleep disorders. Rohypnol is, however, being illegally diverted into the United States by drug traffickers.

### HOW IS THE DRUG BEING ABUSED?

Rohypnol is being used by adolescents and young adults, as well as polydrug abusers. There also have been reports that Rohypnol has been put in women's drinks as a prelude to rape.

The primary sources of the drug into the United States seem to be from Columbia and Mexico and the states having the most significant problems with Rohypnol being smuggled in are logically the southern states from Florida to California. Since those states are some of the most popular locations for spring break, the drug has quickly made its way to college campuses, bars, parties and even high schools and middle schools across the United States. [In fact, an article put out by the DEA indicates that in Miami, "the largest and fastest growing group of Rohypnol users are high school students who take the drug with alcohol or use it after cocaine ingestion."<sup>2</sup>] The DEA reports that two "common misperceptions about flunitrazepam may explain the drug's popularity with young people: first, many erroneously believe that the drug is unadulterated - and therefore "safe" - because it comes in presealed bubble packs; second, many mistakingly think its use cannot be detected by urinalysis testing."<sup>3</sup> South Carolina is not immune to the problem; Rohypnol was found at Clemson last year.

Polysubstance abusers, particularly cocaine, crack and heroine users also abuse Rohypnol. It enhances the high produced by low-quality heroine. It is also "touted as an effective 'parachute' or remedy for the depression that follows a stimulant high."<sup>4</sup>

### ABUSE PATTERNS WHERE YOU MAY SEE IT

- \* Recreational use (as an intoxicant) especially by adolescents and young adults
- \* By heroine users as an enhancer for low-quality heroine
- \* In combination with cocaine or crack to moderate

<sup>2</sup>DEA Highlights 1995  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/pubs/rohypnol/rohypnol.htm>

<sup>3</sup> id.

<sup>4</sup>DEA Highlights 1995  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/pubs/rohypnol/rohypnol.htm>

the effects of a binge

- \* Crime victims who report dizziness, extreme drowsiness, or other sudden unexplained symptoms or who have difficulty remembering the details of their assault

### HOW TO IDENTIFY ROHYPNOL

Rohypnol tablets are white and contain the name "Roche" and an encircled 1 or 2 on one side. A single or cross score appears on the other side. The tablets are often illicitly sold in their original bubble-wrap pharmaceutical packaging, and the street price of a single tablet averages less than \$5.<sup>5</sup> Common street names for Rohypnol include: *circles, rib, roach-2, roofies, roopies, rope, ruffies, R-2, roaches, Roche, la rocha, and the forget pill*. In some areas, it is associated with gangs, and it is becoming known as a club drug.

As of March 5, 1996, the U.S. Customs Service announced a ban on the importation of Rohypnol into the United States. Thus, even individuals who have a prescription for Rohypnol cannot bring it into this country. In October 1996, President Clinton signed into law the "Drug-Induced Rape Prevention and Punishment Act of 1996." This federal legislation provides severe sentences and fines for anyone convicted of the possession of any controlled substance with the intent to administer such substance to facilitate a crime of violence, including sexual assault.

As law enforcement and the Department of Social Services are investigating cases they should look for evidence of the drug's use against victims and by recreational and polysubstance abusers.

### WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS?

What are the physical effects of Rohypnol? Someone who has been drugged will appear inebriated (or if they have had alcohol, they will seem disproportionately inebriated). They may have trouble staying awake, trouble with motor coordination, impaired judgement, disinhibition, dizziness, and confusion. If an individual appears intoxicated, but there is no alcohol smell on his/her breath or (s)he registers a low blood alcohol level, a special

urine test can detect the presence of flunitrazepam in the system.<sup>6</sup>

One of the more alarming side effects from the misuse of Rohypnol is impaired memory. A person who has been sexually assaulted therefore may not remember the details of what happened while under the drug's influence. Generally, Rohypnol's effects begin within 20-30 minutes, peaking within two hours and lasting up to eight hours or more. All of these side effects are magnified, however, when Rohypnol is mixed with alcohol or other drugs. Mixed with alcohol or other drugs, Rohypnol can be lethal.

### OTHER THREATS

By no means is Rohypnol the only drug used by criminals to sedate their victims. For perhaps centuries, criminals have used alcohol. Other drugs include Valium, barbiturates, opiates (such as codeine), chloral hydrate, LSD and "Mickey Finn". And new on the scene is Gamma Hydroxybutyrate (GHB), a central nervous system depressant. GHB is a chemical that has been promoted as a steroid alternative for body builders and other uses for several years. It has become popular for recreational use because of its intoxicating effects. Reported symptoms include vomiting, dizziness, tremors, seizure, and even some deaths have been linked to the consumption of GHB products.

Likewise, rape is not the only crime associated with Rohypnol or other sedating drugs. Florida has experienced trouble with young people using the drug and then attempting to drive. A new Florida law authorizes the screening for flunitrazepam if a driver seems impaired but has a low blood alcohol level. There have also been reports of victims being robbed after having drunk a drink laced with Rohypnol. One can only imagine the horrible possibilities with Rohypnol and other similar drugs. Children would be easy victims of this drug - both by it being given to them or by being under the care of an individual who is abusing Rohypnol.

### REDUCING THE RISKS

F. Hoffman-La Roche Ltd. and the federal government are both investing money into education programs for law enforcement, educators, rape crisis

<sup>5</sup>Information provided as an educational service by Roche Laboratories

<sup>6</sup>Urine samples can be sent to SLED and screened for the presence of Rohypnol and its byproducts. SLED should be alerted that Rohypnol is suspected.

centers, etc. The South Carolina Legislature is also considering a law similar to the federal law entitled the "Drug-Induced Crime Prevention and Punishment Act of 1997."<sup>7</sup> Law enforcement, child protective services, and guardians *ad litem* should be aware of the drug as it is used against unsuspecting victims, by drug addicts, and young recreational users.

## SLED Policy on Submission of Sexual Assault Evidence

By Lt. Ira Jeffcoat, SLED

In 1994, SLED developed a procedure for the submission and handling of criminal sexual assault evidence. The intent of the procedure was to provide a more efficient and effective method of handling the increased number of evidence submissions. The primary focus of this procedure is to preserve and identify what is ordinarily considered the most probative sexual assault evidence, the suspect's semen. To facilitate this task, SLED requests the submitting agency to limit their original evidence submission to:

1. The SLED Criminal Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit containing the evidence specimens and a blood standard from the victim.
2. The victim's panties or underwear.
3. Any object the victim observed the suspect clean himself with after the attack.
4. The SLED Suspect Evidence Collection Kit containing the suspect's blood standard.

Any additional evidence found at the crime scene should be collected and retained by the investigating agency so that it can be submitted later if necessary.

At a minimum, SLED needs a "victim kit" and a "suspect kit" to be able to perform analysis. Criminal sexual assault evidence that is submitted to SLED but does not meet the above criteria will be received, inventoried and stored by SLED for up to 6 months. A report will be sent to both the law enforcement agency and the solicitor notifying them that the evidence is in storage. The report will indicate the need for proper standards to be submitted before a complete analysis is done. If analysis is needed prior to submission of the requested standards or if

additional information becomes available, the submitting agency should contact the Department of Forensic Serology and DNA Analysis.

## Legislative Update (current through 3/24/97)

### S. 6 - Drug Impaired Infants

3/12/97 Favorable committee report;  
3/13/97 Second reading in Senate;  
3/18/97 Third reading;  
3/19/97 Introduced in House / Referred to Judiciary Committee

### S. 41 - Child Endangerment / Failure to Stop

3/19/97 Favorable committee report

### H. 3101 - Transporting Child Out of State to Circumvent Custody Proceeding

2/25/97 Second reading in House / Roll call vote;  
2/26/96 Third reading;  
2/27/97 Introduced in Senate / Referred to Judiciary Committee

### H. 3103 - EPSDT Referrals

2/26/97 Favorable committee report;  
3/3/97 Second reading in House;  
3/11/97 Third reading in House;  
3/12/97 Introduced in Senate / Referred to Medical Affairs Committee

### H. 3139 - Permanency Planning

2/19/97 Third reading in House;  
2/20/97 Introduced in Senate / Referred to Judiciary Committee;  
3/19/97 Favorable committee report, with amendment;  
3/20/97 Second reading in Senate

Under the amendment to this bill, the placement plan presented to the court must include the number of contacts a caseworker will have with a foster child, a minimum of one per month. Contact would have to include a private face-to-face interview with the child. Foster children would be given a printed card with a toll-free, 24-hour telephone number that could be called in the event of problems. Foster parents would be strongly encouraged to attend meetings of the Foster Care Review Board and, if unable to attend, would be required to submit a progress report. Any public employee of the State of South Carolina would be required to report violations of the above; failure to report would be a misdemeanor.

<sup>7</sup>Bill Number: 47  
Introducing Body: Senate  
All Sponsors: Holland and Giese  
Current Committee: Judiciary Committee 11 SJ

Also under the Senate Judiciary Committee's amendment, DSS would be required to submit a comprehensive plan by 1/15/99 to improve the safety and quality of life of South Carolina's foster children. The plan would include the creation of an organization of children recently emancipated from foster care in order to provide information on the needs of children in foster care. §20-7-1642 would be amended to prohibit placement in foster care with persons convicted of assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature, criminal domestic violence, or criminal domestic violence of a high and aggravated nature.

#### **H. 3240 - School Safety Act**

2/25/97 Introduced in Senate / Referred to Judiciary committee

#### **H. 3366 - Immunity for Law Enforcement Officers**

3/19/97 Favorable committee report;  
3/20/97 Amended / Second reading;  
3/21/97 Third reading / Sent to senate

The amended version of this bill would include DSS employees as well as law enforcement officers and would apply to all acts or omissions within the scope of official duties. Immunity would only apply if one acted in good faith and was not reckless, wilful, wanton, or grossly negligent.

#### **S. 413 - Maliciously Taking a Child in Absence of Custody Order**

2/26/97 Introduced - Senator Alexander / Referred to Judiciary Committee

When there has not been a court order determining custody, it would be a felony for a person having a right to custody to maliciously take or conceal the child, without good cause, to deprive the custody right of another person.

#### **S. 456 - Domesticating Foreign Adoptions**

3/4/97 Introduced - Senator Wilson / Referred to Judiciary Committee

When adoptions are finalized in a foreign country, the court would transmit the certificate of adoption to the State Registrar of Vital Statistics without a hearing unless the court finds that the documentation is unsatisfactory. Court Administration, in consultation with the Department of Social Services, would be required to develop petition forms and guidelines for obtaining the domestication of foreign adoptions.

#### **S. 531 - Family Independence Act Amendments**

3/12/97 Introduced - Senator Martin / Referred to General Committee

This bill would amend employer requirements for providing health care coverage in order to obtain tax credits for employing former recipients of Family Independence payments. Participation in family skills programs would be based on determination of need by the case manager. Various technical amendments to the Family Independence Act are included.

#### **S. 532 - Child Support Enforcement**

3/12/97 Introduced - Senator Martin / Referred to Judiciary Committee

This bill relates to procedures for determination of paternity and enforcement of child support, including the establishment of procedures for collecting liens for past due child support.

#### **S. 534 - Child Labor Regulations**

3/12/97 Introduced - Senator Hayes / Referred to Labor, Commerce & Industry Committee

An optional fine for a first violation of child labor regulations would be allowed. Fines for subsequent violations would be increased, and made optional rather than mandatory.

#### **H. 3532 - School District Responsible for Children in Foster Care**

2/26/97 Introduced - Rep. Clyburn / Referred to Education & Public Works Committee

Under this bill, the responsibility for providing education would be vested in the school district in which children are placed in foster care, group homes, or state-operated health care facilities. This would not apply to children who have handicaps.

#### **H. 3541 - Photographs and Medical Reports by Mandated Reporters**

2/26/97 Introduced - Rep. Cotty / Referred to Judiciary Committee;  
3/19/97 Favorable committee report with amendment;  
3/20/97 Amended;  
3/21/97 Third reading in House / Sent to Senate

This bill clarifies that copies, rather than the originals, of all photographs, negatives, and X-ray or other

medical reports must be sent to DSS when a report of suspected child abuse or neglect is made.

#### **H. 3546 - Emergency Removal of Children**

2/27/97 Introduced - Rep. Knotts / Referred to  
Judiciary Committee

This bill would amend §20-7-610 to change time limits in emergency removals of children. After a child is taken into emergency physical custody, DSS would have 48 hours, rather than 24, to conduct a preliminary investigation. DSS could not return the child after this preliminary investigation if the law enforcement agency, rather than the removing officer, objects. When a child is taken into emergency protective custody, DSS would conduct a preliminary investigation within 96 hours, rather than 72.

#### **H. 3584 - Restitution by Juveniles**

3/3/97 Introduced - sponsored by Judiciary  
Committee

Judges would be authorized to order restitution, in addition to commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice.

#### **H. 3588 - Juvenile Criminal Records**

3/3/97 Introduced - Rep. Sheheen / Referred to  
Judiciary Committee

This bill would amend various sections of the Code relating to confidentiality of juvenile criminal records. If a juvenile has been adjudicated delinquent and committed to DJJ for an offense which, if committed by an adult, would lead to imprisonment for one year or more, records provided to schools by DJJ would include criminal record information; official juvenile records would be open to inspection; the prohibition against publishing the name or picture of a juvenile would be lifted; and fingerprints could be released. DJJ could also provide the victim with the name of a juvenile charged with such an offense.

#### **H. 3603 - Unlawful Conduct Towards a Child**

3/6/97 Introduced - Rep. Allison / Referred to  
Judiciary Committee

This bill would amend §20-7-50 to revise the definition of persons who could be charged with unlawful conduct towards a child. In addition to parents or persons having custody of a child, this section would apply to anyone who resides in the house of a child, has recurring access to a child, or has been given responsibility to care for a child. Placing the child in a situation likely to lead to

abandonment would be added to the current offenses, which include placing child at unreasonable risk of harm, causing bodily harm to a child, and abandonment.

#### **H. 3628 - Central Registry**

3/11/97 Introduced - Rep. Kelley / Referred to  
Judiciary Committee

This proposal creates, separate from DSS' central data system, a registry of persons who would present a significant risk to children if placed in employment or other positions involving child care. The "perpetrator registry" would include: persons found to have physically or sexually abused, or willfully or recklessly neglected, a child in the home; persons found to have abused or neglected a child in the home in some other manner if the court finds that they would present a significant risk; persons who are convicted or plead guilty or nolo contendere to a criminal offense involving sexual or physical abuse of a child; and persons found to have abused or neglected a child in an institutional setting.

#### **H. 3650 - Child Support**

3/13/97 Introduced - Rep. Felder / Referred to  
Ways & Means

Similar to S. 531.

#### **H. 3651 - Family Independence Act**

3/13/97 Introduced - Rep. Felder / Referred to  
Ways & Means

Similar to S. 532.

#### **H. 3667 - Custodial Parent Allowed to Move**

3/18/97 Introduced - Rep. Kirsh / Referred to  
Judiciary Committee

Under this bill, the family court would not have jurisdiction to prohibit a custodial parent from moving outside of the state unless there is a compelling reason or the parties have agreed.



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