



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL
AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

Don Jordan, Secretary

House Judiciary Committee
February 10, 2009

Forwarding CINC Reports to Prosecutors

For Additional Information Contact:
Katy Belot, Director of Public Policy
Docking State Office Building, 6th Floor North
(785) 296-3271



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Chairman Kinzer and members of the committee, I am Don Jordan, Secretary of Social and Rehabilitation Services. I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today concerning HB 2208.

SRS and law enforcement officers have the duty to receive and investigate reports of alleged child abuse or neglect for the purposes of determining whether the report is valid and whether action is needed to protect a child. SRS also receives reports for assessment of circumstances related to truancy or youth who are in conflict with the community, have run away from their home or may be otherwise be in need of services.

House Bill 2208 requires SRS to furnish a copy of all child in need of care reports received by the agency to the county or district attorney. Currently, SRS policy requires prosecutors receive notice of every substantiated finding. In addition, prosecutors receive requests to file child in need of care petitions or assist in acquiring an ex parte order of custody. Many jurisdictions have multidisciplinary teams or Child Advocacy Centers that review and assess substantiated reports in order to collaborate on next steps. Statewide in FY 2008, SRS received 53,888 reports of child in need of care information. Of those reports, 2,022 resulted in a substantiated finding. In FY 2008, Kansas courts ordered 3,551 children into the custody of the Secretary.

While SRS appreciates the additional perspective of prosecutors reviewing reports received by the agency, we hope this review does not discourage some families from seeking assistance from social services when they know the request is automatically forwarded to the county or district attorney. The agency does not expect an increase in child in need of care petitions or investigations as a result of forwarding this information.

In order to establish a uniform method for communicating with all prosecutors, we ask that you consider the attached amendment giving the department the ability to determine the most cost effective method of delivering the information.

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