

AN ACT

relating to consultations with contracted physician networks and physician systems during certain investigations of child abuse and neglect.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 261, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 261.3017 to read as follows:

Sec. 261.3017. CONSULTATION WITH PHYSICIAN NETWORKS AND SYSTEMS REGARDING CERTAIN MEDICAL CONDITIONS. (a) In this section:

(1) "Network" means the Forensic Assessment Center Network.

(2) "System" means the entities that receive grants under the Texas Medical Child Abuse Resources and Education System (MEDCARES) authorized by Chapter 1001, Health and Safety Code.

(b) Any agreement between the department and the network or between the Department of State Health Services and the system to provide assistance in connection with abuse and neglect investigations conducted by the department must require the network and the system to have the ability to obtain consultations with physicians, including radiologists, geneticists, and endocrinologists, who specialize in identifying unique health conditions, including:

(1) rickets;

1           (2) Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome;  
2           (3) osteogenesis imperfecta;  
3           (4) vitamin D deficiency; and  
4           (5) other similar metabolic bone diseases or  
5 connective tissue disorders.

6           (c) If, during an abuse or neglect investigation or an  
7 assessment provided under Subsection (b), the department or a  
8 physician in the network determines that a child requires a  
9 specialty consultation with a physician, the department or the  
10 physician shall refer the child's case to the system for the  
11 consultation, if the system has available capacity to take the  
12 child's case.

13           (d) In providing assessments to the department as provided  
14 by Subsection (b), the network and the system must use a blind peer  
15 review process to resolve cases where physicians in the network or  
16 system disagree in the assessment of the causes of a child's  
17 injuries or in the presence of a condition listed under Subsection  
18 (b).

19           SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to  
20 an agreement entered into or renewed on or after the effective date  
21 of this Act.

22           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2848 was passed by the House on May 2, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 146, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2848 on May 24, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 145, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2848 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 22, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor