

AN ACT

relating to requiring the use of multidisciplinary teams appointed by children's advocacy centers in certain child abuse investigations.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 264, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 264.4061 to read as follows:

Sec. 264.4061. MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM RESPONSE REQUIRED.

(a) The department shall refer a case to a center and the center shall initiate a response by a center's multidisciplinary team appointed under Section 264.406 when conducting an investigation of:

(1) a report of abuse that is made by a professional as defined by Section 261.101 and that:

(A) alleges sexual abuse of a child; or

(B) is a type of case handled by the center in accordance with the working protocol adopted for the center under Section 264.411(a)(9); or

(2) a child fatality in which there are surviving children in the deceased child's household or under the supervision of the caregiver involved in the child fatality.

(b) Any interview of a child conducted as part of the investigation under Subsection (a) must be a forensic interview conducted in accordance with the center's working protocol unless a

1 forensic interview is not appropriate based on the child's age and  
2 development or the center's working protocol.

3 (c) Subsection (a) applies only to an investigation of abuse  
4 in a county served by a center that has executed an interagency  
5 memorandum of understanding under Section 264.403. If a county is  
6 not served by a center that has executed an interagency memorandum  
7 of understanding, the department may directly refer a case to a  
8 center in an adjacent county to initiate a response by that center's  
9 multidisciplinary team, if appropriate.

10 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

S.B. No. 1806

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1806 passed the Senate on April 26, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1806 passed the House on May 19, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 0, two present not voting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor