

By: Huffman

S.B. No. 1806

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

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

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

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

8 Sec. 264.4061. MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM RESPONSE REQUIRED.

9 (a) The department shall refer cases directly to a center to
10 initiate a response by a center's multidisciplinary team appointed
11 under Section 264.406 when conducting an investigation of:

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

14 (A) alleges sexual abuse of a child; or

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

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

21 (b) As part of the investigation under Subsection (a), any
22 interview of the child shall be a forensic interview conducted by
23 the center in accordance with the center's working protocol unless
24 a forensic interview is not appropriate based on the child's age and

1 development and the working protocol adopted for the center under
2 Section 264.411(a)(9).

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

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