
SENATE BILL 6245

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Senators Thibaudeau, Prentice, Goings, Wood, Sheldon, Winsley, Quigley, Wojahn, Smith, Fraser, Moyer, Franklin, McAuliffe, Deccio and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/09/96. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to child death investigations; and adding a new
2 section to chapter 74.13 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions
7 in this section apply in this section.

8 (a) "Community child death review team" means a multidisciplinary,
9 multiagency team, including without limitation professionals in the
10 area of public health, medicine, law enforcement, mental health, social
11 services, chemical dependency treatment, child welfare, and social work
12 who perform a comprehensive evaluation of circumstances leading up to
13 the unexpected death of a minor in the care of the department.

14 (b) "Consistent process of review" means the use of protocols that
15 ensure the comprehensive evaluation of circumstances leading up to the
16 unexpected death of a minor.

17 (c) "Department" means the department of social and health
18 services.

19 (d) "Minor" means a person less than eighteen years of age.

1 (2) The department may adopt rules regarding child death review
2 under this section, including, but not limited to time frames for
3 completion of child death review, the manner of deaths subject to
4 review, and the membership of community child death review teams, for
5 purposes of reviewing unexpected deaths of children in the care of or
6 receiving the services of the department.

7 (3) The department of health and the department shall provide an
8 annual, joint report to the appropriate committees of the legislature
9 on child deaths in Washington state. This report shall include, but
10 not be limited to, information on deaths attributed to child
11 maltreatment and deaths of children in the care of or receiving those
12 services described in this chapter from the department.

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