

6648-S

Sponsor(s): Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections
(originally sponsored by Senator Hargrove)

Brief Description: Improving coordination of services when criminal mistreatment occurs.

SB 6648-S - DIGEST

(AS OF SENATE 2ND READING 2/18/02)

Recognizes that responses by the department of social and health services and public safety agencies have varied between jurisdictions when allegations of withholding of the basic necessities of life are made.

Declares an intent to improve the capacity of the department of social and health services and public safety agencies to respond to situations where the basic necessities of life are withheld by allowing an earlier intervention in such cases.

Finds that improved coordination between the department of social and health services and public safety agencies at an earlier point will lead to better treatment of children and families and will reduce the likelihood of serious harm.

Declares that a person is guilty of the crime of criminal mistreatment in the fourth degree if the person is the parent of a child, is a person entrusted with the physical custody of a child or other dependent person, or is a person employed to provide to the child or dependent person the basic necessities of life, and either: (1) With criminal negligence, creates an imminent and substantial risk of bodily injury to a child or dependent person by withholding any of the basic necessities of life; or

(2) With criminal negligence, causes bodily injury or extreme emotional distress manifested by more than transient physical symptoms to a child or dependent person by withholding the basic necessities of life.

Declares that criminal mistreatment in the fourth degree is a misdemeanor.

Directs the department of social and health services, in consultation with the attorney general and organizations representing law enforcement agencies, to prepare a plan for improved coordination of services to families when a member of the family is charged with criminal mistreatment under chapter 9A.42 RCW.