

Subject Office of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson powers

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Overview

This bill modifies the powers of the Office of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson by modifying data classifications, expanding individuals who may be investigated, allowing the ombudsperson to enter and inspect without notice any place where a foster youth is residing, specifying that the ombudsperson or staff may conduct private meetings or calls with foster youth, removing the requirement to inform certain individuals and entities of actions taken on a complaint, allowing the ombudsperson direct access to the social services information system, and expanding the ombudsperson's access to data.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Confidential data. Amends § 13.876, subd. 2. Modifies data classifications for data within an active investigative file maintained by the ombudsperson, to clarify that data not on individuals is classified as protected nonpublic data rather than confidential data.
2	Access to data. Amends § 13.876, subd. 3. Updates cross-reference to new subdivision.
3	Definitions. Amends § 260C.82, subd. 1. Adds definitions of “placement” and “placement manager” for purposes of the section governing the powers of the Office of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson. Modifies the definition of “agency” to include any Minnesota agency that licenses the placement of a foster youth.
4	Powers. Amends § 260C.82, subd. 2. Modifies terminology, adds individuals whose actions may be investigated by the ombudsperson.

Section	Description
	Adds power to enter and inspect any place where a foster youth is residing, without notice; specifies that the ombudsperson has direct access to information and to the social services information system.
5	Complaints. Amends § 260.82, subd. 4. Adds “violation of rights” to complaints for the ombudsperson. Modifies terminology and clarifies complaint procedures. Removes the requirement for the ombudsperson to inform the complainant, the agency, or the subject of an investigation of the actions taken. Allows the ombudsperson or staff to conduct private meetings or calls with a foster youth.
6	Recommendations. Amends § 260C.82, subd. 5. If the ombudsperson considers a complaint to be valid, allows the ombudsperson to recommend that a guardian ad litem consider the matter further or take other actions.
7	Data. Amends § 260C.82, subd. 7. Expands the data the ombudsperson has access to when access is necessary for the ombudsperson to perform statutory duties. Requires a placement to provide any data or information to the ombudsperson that the placement would be required to provide to its licensing agency.



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