HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill addresses notification provisions that apply when a child is a crime victim. It amends notice requirements in custody orders and specifies how notification will occur if contact is prohibited or a party is in the Safe at Home program. It also requires law enforcement to notify social services if a child is a victim of neglect or abuse occurring outside the home.

1 **Custody order.** Paragraph (b) provides that each party to a custody order has a right of access to police reports about the parties' minor children. Requires each party to notify the other if a child is the victim of an alleged crime and to provide the name of the investigating officer or agency, except there is no duty to notify a party that is the alleged perpetrator. Restructures paragraph (b).

Paragraphs (d) & (e) specify how notification will occur if a court order or law prohibits contact by a party or if a party is a Safe at Home participant. If contact is prohibited, notice must be made by third-party communication, and the duty to notify in the custody order does not modify a no contact order. In Safe at Home cases, notice must be sent to the participant's designated address and the participant is exempted from the notice requirements.

Paragraph (f) provides that failure to notify a party of their rights does not form the basis for custody modification unless other grounds are alleged.

2 **Maltreatment reports; law enforcement; welfare agency.** Directs law enforcement to immediately notify the local welfare agency if a child is the victim of neglect, physical abuse, or sexual abuse occurring outside the family. Current law provides that the local welfare agency must offer appropriate social service to protect the welfare of the child.