

Subject Notification requirements for alleged abuse of a child

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Summary

Under current law, an employee or supervisor of a “private or public youth recreation program,” as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 260E.055, is required to report information about the alleged abuse of a child to the local welfare agency, agency responsible for assessing or investigating the report, police department, county sheriff, Tribal social services agency, or Tribal police department. The program must make an oral report immediately and follow up with a report in writing.

H.F. 4312, as amended by H4312DE1, requires a program to notify the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of a child alleged to have been a victim of abuse in the program and provide specified information about the alleged abuse. The program is required to send the notification immediately after completing the required oral report.

The bill, as amended, allows the entity responsible for investigating the report to provide specified information about the alleged abuse to the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of any other child in the program if the entity knows or has reason to believe the alleged abuse occurred. In determining whether to exercise this authority, the investigative entity must consider: the seriousness of the alleged abuse; the number of alleged victims; the number of alleged offenders; and the length of the investigation. The investigating entity is required to notify the program if the entity makes the notification.