

As Amended by Senate Committee

As Further Amended by House Committee

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Session of 2022

HOUSE BILL No. 2582

By Committee on Children and Seniors

2-1

1 AN ACT concerning children and minors; relating to the Kansas
2 department for children and families; clarifying information exchange
3 in investigations of child abuse between the department and law
4 enforcement agencies; directing the department to release certain
5 information to law enforcement agencies; amending K.S.A. 38-2210,
6 38-2211 and 38-2212 and repealing the existing sections.
7

8 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

9 Section 1. K.S.A. 38-2210 is hereby amended to read as follows: 38-
10 2210. To facilitate investigation and ensure the provision of necessary
11 services to children who may be in need of care and such children's
12 families, the following persons and entities with responsibilities
13 concerning a child who is alleged or adjudicated to be in need of care shall
14 freely exchange information:

- 15 (a) The secretary.
16 (b) The secretary of corrections.
17 (c) ~~The~~A law enforcement agency *investigating or* receiving such
18 report. *Such information shall include information and records disclosed*
19 *pursuant to K.S.A. 38-2212(e), and amendments thereto.*
20 (d) Members of a court appointed multidisciplinary team.
21 (e) An entity mandated by federal law or an agency of any state
22 authorized to receive and investigate reports of a child known or suspected
23 to be in need of care.
24 (f) A military enclave or Indian tribal organization authorized to
25 receive and investigate reports of a child known or suspected to be in need
26 of care.
27 (g) A county or district attorney with responsibility for filing a
28 petition pursuant to K.S.A. 38-2214, and amendments thereto.
29 (h) A court services officer who has taken a child into custody
30 pursuant to K.S.A. 38-2231, and amendments thereto.
31 (i) An intake and assessment worker.
32 (j) Any community corrections program which has the child under

1 court ordered supervision.

2 (k) The department of health and environment or persons authorized
3 by the department of health and environment pursuant to K.S.A. 65-512,
4 and amendments thereto, for the purpose of carrying out responsibilities
5 relating to licensure or registration of child care providers as required by
6 article 5 of chapter 65 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments
7 thereto.

8 (l) The interstate compact for juveniles compact administrator for the
9 purpose of carrying out the responsibilities related to the interstate
10 compact for juveniles.

11 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 38-2211 is hereby amended to read as follows: 38-
12 2211. (a) *Access to the official file.* The following persons or entities shall
13 have access to the official file of a child in need of care proceeding
14 pursuant to this code:

15 (1) The court having jurisdiction over the proceedings, including the
16 presiding judge and any court personnel designated by the judge.

17 (2) The parties to the proceedings and their attorneys.

18 (3) The guardian ad litem for a child who is the subject of the
19 proceeding.

20 (4) A court appointed special advocate for a child who is the subject
21 of the proceeding or a paid staff member of a court appointed special
22 advocate program.

23 (5) Any individual, or any public or private agency or institution,
24 having custody of the child under court order or providing educational,
25 medical or mental health services to the child or any placement provider or
26 potential placement provider as determined by the secretary or court
27 services officer.

28 (6) A citizen review board.

29 (7) The secretary of corrections or any agents designated by the
30 secretary of corrections.

31 (8) Any county or district attorney from another jurisdiction with a
32 pending child in need of care matter regarding any of the same parties.

33 (9) Any other person when authorized by a court order, subject to any
34 conditions imposed by the order.

35 (10) The commission on judicial performance in the discharge of the
36 commission's duties pursuant to article 32 of chapter 20 of the Kansas
37 Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto.

38 (11) *An investigating law enforcement agency.*

39 (b) *Access to the social file.* The following persons or entities shall
40 have access to the social file of a child in need of care proceeding pursuant
41 to this code:

42 (1) The court having jurisdiction over the proceeding, including the
43 presiding judge and any court personnel designated by the judge.

1 (2) The attorney for a party to the proceeding or the person or persons
2 designated by an Indian tribe that is a party.

3 (3) The guardian ad litem for a child who is the subject of the
4 proceeding.

5 (4) A court appointed special advocate for a child who is the subject
6 of the proceeding or a paid staff member of a court appointed special
7 advocate program.

8 (5) A citizen review board.

9 (6) The secretary.

10 (7) The secretary of corrections or any agents designated by the
11 secretary of corrections.

12 (8) Any county or district attorney from another jurisdiction with a
13 pending child in need of care matter regarding any of the same parties or
14 interested parties.

15 (9) Any other person when authorized by a court order, subject to any
16 conditions imposed by the order.

17 (10) *An investigating law enforcement agency.*

18 (c) *Preservation of records.* The Kansas state historical society shall
19 be allowed to take possession for preservation in the state archives of any
20 court records related to proceedings under the Kansas code for care of
21 children whenever such records otherwise would be destroyed. No such
22 records in the custody of the Kansas state historical society shall be
23 disclosed directly or indirectly to anyone for 70 years after creation of the
24 records, except as provided in subsections (a) and (b). Pursuant to
25 subsections (a)(9) and (b)(9), a judge of the district court may allow
26 inspection for research purposes of any court records in the custody of the
27 Kansas state historical society related to proceedings under the Kansas
28 code for care of children.

29 Sec. 3. K.S.A. 38-2212 is hereby amended to read as follows: 38-
30 2212. (a) *Principle of appropriate access.* Information contained in
31 confidential agency records concerning a child alleged or adjudicated to be
32 in need of care may be disclosed as provided in this section *and shall be*
33 *disclosed as provided in subsection (e).* Disclosure shall in all cases be
34 guided by the principle of providing access only to persons or entities with
35 a need for information that is directly related to achieving the purposes of
36 this code.

37 (b) *Free exchange of information.* Pursuant to K.S.A. 38-2210, and
38 amendments thereto, the secretary and juvenile intake and assessment
39 agencies shall participate in the free exchange of information concerning a
40 child who is alleged or adjudicated to be in need of care.

41 (c) *Necessary access.* The following persons or entities shall have
42 access to information from agency records. Access shall be limited to
43 information reasonably necessary to carry out their lawful responsibilities,

1 to maintain their personal safety and the personal safety of individuals in
2 their care, or to educate, diagnose, treat, care for or protect a child alleged
3 to be in need of care. Information authorized to be disclosed pursuant to
4 this subsection shall not contain information that identifies a reporter of a
5 child who is alleged or adjudicated to be a child in need of care.

6 (1) A child named in the report or records, a guardian ad litem
7 appointed for the child and the child's attorney.

8 (2) A parent or other person responsible for the welfare of a child, or
9 such person's legal representative.

10 (3) A court-appointed special advocate for a child, a citizen review
11 board or other advocate that reports to the court.

12 (4) A person licensed to practice the healing arts or mental health
13 profession in order to diagnose, care for, treat or supervise:

14 (A) A child whom such service provider reasonably suspects may be
15 in need of care;

16 (B) a member of the child's family; or

17 (C) a person who allegedly abused or neglected the child.

18 (5) A person or entity licensed or registered by the secretary of health
19 and environment or approved by the secretary for children and families to
20 care for, treat or supervise a child in need of care.

21 (6) A coroner or medical examiner when such person is determining
22 the cause of death of a child.

23 (7) The state child death review board established under K.S.A. 22a-
24 243, and amendments thereto.

25 (8) An attorney for a private party who files a petition pursuant to
26 K.S.A. 38-2233(b), and amendments thereto.

27 (9) A foster parent, prospective foster parent, permanent custodian,
28 prospective permanent custodian, adoptive parent or prospective adoptive
29 parent. In order to assist such persons in making an informed decision
30 regarding acceptance of a particular child, to help the family anticipate
31 problems that may occur during the child's placement, and to help the
32 family meet the needs of the child in a constructive manner, the secretary
33 shall seek and shall provide the following information to such persons as
34 the information becomes available to the secretary:

35 (A) Strengths, needs and general behavior of the child;

36 (B) circumstances that necessitated placement;

37 (C) information about the child's family and the child's relationship to
38 the family that may affect the placement;

39 (D) important life experiences and relationships that may affect the
40 child's feelings, behavior, attitudes or adjustment;

41 (E) medical history of the child, including third-party coverage that
42 may be available to the child; and

43 (F) education history, to include present grade placement, special

1 strengths and weaknesses.

2 (10) The state protection and advocacy agency as provided by K.S.A.
3 65-5603(a)(10) or K.S.A. 74-5515(a)(2)(A) and (B), and amendments
4 thereto.

5 (11) Any educational institution to the extent necessary to enable the
6 educational institution to provide the safest possible environment for its
7 pupils and employees.

8 (12) Any educator to the extent necessary to enable the educator to
9 protect the personal safety of the educator and the educator's pupils.

10 (13) Any other federal, state or local government executive branch
11 entity or any agent of such entity, having a need for such information in
12 order to carry out such entity's responsibilities under the law to protect
13 children from abuse and neglect.

14 (d) *Specified access.* The following persons or entities shall have
15 access to information contained in agency records as specified.
16 Information authorized to be disclosed pursuant to this subsection shall not
17 contain information that identifies a reporter of a child who is alleged or
18 adjudicated to be a child in need of care.

19 (1) Information from confidential agency records of the Kansas
20 department for children and families, a law enforcement agency or any
21 juvenile intake and assessment worker of a child alleged or adjudicated to
22 be in need of care shall be available to members of the standing house or
23 senate committee on judiciary, house committee on corrections and
24 juvenile justice, house committee on appropriations, senate committee on
25 ways and means, legislative post audit committee and any joint committee
26 with authority to consider children's and families' issues, when carrying
27 out such member's or committee's official functions in accordance with
28 K.S.A. 75-4319, and amendments thereto, in a closed or executive
29 meeting. Except in limited conditions established by $\frac{2}{3}$ of the members of
30 such committee, records and reports received by the committee shall not
31 be further disclosed. Unauthorized disclosure may subject such member to
32 discipline or censure from the house of representatives or senate. The
33 secretary for children and families shall not summarize the outcome of
34 department actions regarding a child alleged to be a child in need of care
35 in information available to members of such committees.

36 (2) The secretary for children and families may summarize the
37 outcome of department actions regarding a child alleged to be a child in
38 need of care to a person having made such report.

39 (3) Information from confidential reports or records of a child alleged
40 or adjudicated to be a child in need of care may be disclosed to the public
41 when:

42 (A) The individuals involved or their representatives have given
43 express written consent; or

1 (B) the investigation of the abuse or neglect of the child or the filing
2 of a petition alleging a child to be in need of care has become public
3 knowledge, provided, however, that the agency shall limit disclosure to
4 confirmation of procedural details relating to the handling of the case by
5 professionals.

6 (e) *Law enforcement access. The secretary shall disclose confidential*
7 *agency records of a child alleged or adjudicated to be a child in need of*
8 *care, as described in K.S.A. 38-2209, and amendments thereto, to the law*
9 *enforcement agency investigating the alleged or substantiated report or*
10 *investigation of abuse or neglect, regardless of the disposition of such*
11 *report or investigation. Such records shall include, but not be limited to,*
12 *any information regarding such report or investigation—~~and~~, records of*
13 *past reports or investigations concerning such child and such child's*
14 *siblings and the perpetrator or alleged perpetrator **and the name and***
15 **contact information of the reporter or persons alleging abuse or**
16 **neglect and case managers, investigators or contracting agency**
17 **employees assigned to or investigating such report. Such records shall**
18 **only be used for the purposes of investigating the alleged or**
19 **substantiated report or investigation of abuse or neglect.**

20 ~~(e)~~(f) *Court order. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a*
21 *court of competent jurisdiction, after in camera inspection, may order*
22 *disclosure of confidential agency records pursuant to a determination that*
23 *the disclosure is in the best interests of the child who is the subject of the*
24 *reports or that the records are necessary for the proceedings of the court.*
25 *The court shall specify the terms of disclosure and impose appropriate*
26 *limitations.*

27 ~~(f)~~(g) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary,
28 except as provided in paragraph (6), in the event that child abuse or
29 neglect results in a child fatality or near fatality, reports or records of a
30 child alleged or adjudicated to be in need of care received by the secretary,
31 a law enforcement agency or any juvenile intake and assessment worker
32 shall become a public record and subject to disclosure pursuant to K.S.A.
33 45-215, and amendments thereto.

34 (2) Within seven days of receipt of a request in accordance with the
35 procedures adopted under K.S.A. 45-220, and amendments thereto, the
36 secretary shall notify any affected individual that an open records request
37 has been made concerning such records. The secretary or any affected
38 individual may file a motion requesting the court to prevent disclosure of
39 such record or report, or any select portion thereof. Notice of the filing of
40 such motion shall be provided to all parties requesting the records or
41 reports, and such party or parties shall have a right to hearing, upon
42 request, prior to the entry of any order on such motion. If the affected
43 individual does not file such motion within seven days of notification, and

1 the secretary has not filed a motion, the secretary shall release the reports
2 or records. If such motion is filed, the court shall consider the effect such
3 disclosure may have upon an ongoing criminal investigation, a pending
4 prosecution, or the privacy of the child, if living, or the child's siblings,
5 parents or guardians, and the public's interest in the disclosure of such
6 records or reports. The court shall make written findings on the record
7 justifying the closing of the records and shall provide a copy of the journal
8 entry to the affected parties and the individual requesting disclosure
9 pursuant to the Kansas open records act, K.S.A. 45-215 et seq., and
10 amendments thereto.

11 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (2), in the event that
12 child abuse or neglect results in a child fatality, the secretary shall release
13 the following information in response to an open records request made
14 pursuant to the Kansas open records act, within seven business days of
15 receipt of such request, as allowed by applicable law:

16 (A) Age and sex of the child;

17 (B) date of the fatality;

18 (C) a summary of any previous reports of abuse or neglect received
19 by the secretary involving the child, along with the findings of such
20 reports; and

21 (D) any department recommended services provided to the child.

22 (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (2), in the event that
23 a child fatality occurs while such child was in the custody of the secretary
24 for children and families, the secretary shall release the following
25 information in response to an open records request made pursuant to the
26 Kansas open records act, within seven business days of receipt of such
27 request, as allowed by applicable law:

28 (A) Age and sex of the child;

29 (B) date of the fatality; and

30 (C) a summary of the facts surrounding the death of the child.

31 (5) For reports or records requested pursuant to this subsection, the
32 time limitations specified in this subsection shall control to the extent of
33 any inconsistency between this subsection and K.S.A. 45-218, and
34 amendments thereto. As used in this section, "near fatality" means an act
35 that, as certified by a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery,
36 places the child in serious or critical condition.

37 (6) Nothing in this subsection shall allow the disclosure of reports,
38 records or documents concerning the child and such child's biological
39 parents that were created prior to such child's adoption. Nothing herein is
40 intended to require that an otherwise privileged communication lose its
41 privileged character.

42 Sec. 4. K.S.A. 38-2210, 38-2211 and 38-2212 are hereby repealed.

43 Sec. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its

- 1 publication in the ~~statute book~~ ***Kansas register***.