

Children and Minors—Actions Required when Reports of Sexual Behavior Problems; SB 77

SB 77 creates law in the Revised Kansas Code for Care of Children (CINC Code), defines a “child with sexual behavior problems” to mean a person under 18 years of age who has allegedly committed sexual abuse against another person under 18 years of age, and requires the Department for Children and Families (DCF) to take certain actions when reports of child abuse or neglect are received, the subject of such report is a child with sexual behavior problems, and DCF determines a joint investigation with law enforcement is required in accordance with the CINC Code. Under such circumstances, DCF must immediately provide a referral to a child advocacy center or other mental health provider and, as needed, offer additional services to the child and the child’s family. Such services shall be voluntary, unless DCF determines there will be a high risk of future sexual behavior problems by the child if the child or family refuses services.

The bill also requires DCF to document attempts to provide voluntary services, reasons the services are important to reduce the risk of future sexual behavior problems by the child, whether services are accepted and provided, and the outcome for the child and family.

The bill specifies none of its provisions shall prohibit any action or investigation by DCF otherwise authorized by law.