

SENATE BILL NO. 605

October 09, 2025, Introduced by Senators RUNESTAD, LINDSEY, MCBROOM and THEIS and referred to Committee on Civil Rights, Judiciary, and Public Safety.

A bill to amend 1975 PA 238, entitled
"Child protection law,"
by amending section 7 (MCL 722.627), as amended by 2023 PA 305.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 7. (1) Unless made public as specified information
2 released under section 7d, a written report, document, or
3 photograph filed with the department as provided in this act is a
4 confidential record available only to 1 or more of the following:
5 (a) A legally mandated public or private child protective
6 agency investigating a report of known or suspected child abuse or
7 child neglect or a legally mandated public or private child

1 protective agency or foster care agency prosecuting a disciplinary
2 action against its own employee involving child protective services
3 or foster care records.

4 (b) A police agency or other law enforcement agency
5 investigating a report of known or suspected child abuse or child
6 neglect.

7 (c) A physician who is treating a child whom the physician
8 reasonably suspects may be abused or neglected.

9 (d) A person legally authorized to place a child in protective
10 custody when the person is confronted with a child whom the person
11 reasonably suspects may be abused or neglected and the confidential
12 record is necessary to determine whether to place the child in
13 protective custody.

14 (e) A person, agency, or organization, including a
15 multidisciplinary case consultation team, authorized to diagnose,
16 care for, treat, or supervise a child or family who is the subject
17 of a report or record under this act, or who is responsible for the
18 child's health or welfare.

19 (f) A person named in the report or record as a perpetrator or
20 alleged perpetrator of the child abuse or child neglect or a victim
21 who is an adult at the time of the request, if the identity of the
22 reporting person is protected as provided in section 5.

23 (g) A court for the purposes of determining the suitability of
24 a person as a minor's guardian or that otherwise determines that
25 the information is necessary to decide an issue before the court,
26 or in the event of a child's death, a court that had jurisdiction
27 over that child under section 2(b) of chapter XIIIA of the probate
28 code of 1939, 1939 PA 288, MCL 712A.2.

29 (h) A grand jury that determines the information is necessary

1 to conduct the grand jury's official business.

2 (i) A person, agency, or organization engaged in a bona fide
3 research or evaluation project. The person, agency, or organization
4 shall not release information identifying a person named in the
5 report or record unless that person's written consent is obtained.
6 The person, agency, or organization shall not conduct a personal
7 interview with a family without the family's prior consent and
8 shall not disclose information that would identify the child or the
9 child's family or other identifying information. The department
10 director may authorize release of information to a person, agency,
11 or organization described in this subdivision if the release
12 contributes to the purposes of this act and the person, agency, or
13 organization has appropriate controls to maintain the
14 confidentiality of personally identifying information for a person
15 named in a report or record made under this act.

16 (j) A lawyer-guardian ad litem or other attorney appointed as
17 provided by section 10.

18 (k) A child placing agency licensed under 1973 PA 116, MCL
19 722.111 to 722.128, for the purpose of investigating an applicant
20 for adoption, a foster care applicant or licensee or an employee of
21 a foster care applicant or licensee, an adult member of an
22 applicant's or licensee's household, or other person in a foster
23 care or adoptive home who is directly responsible for the care and
24 welfare of children, to determine suitability of a home for
25 adoption or foster care. The child placing agency must disclose the
26 information to a foster care applicant or licensee under 1973 PA
27 116, MCL 722.111 to 722.128, or to an applicant for adoption.

28 (l) Family division of circuit court staff authorized by the
29 court to investigate foster care applicants and licensees,

1 employees of foster care applicants and licensees, adult members of
2 the applicant's or licensee's household, and any other person in
3 the home who is directly responsible for the care and welfare of
4 children, for the purpose of determining the suitability of the
5 home for foster care. The court must disclose this information to
6 the applicant or licensee.

7 (m) Subject to section 7a, a standing or select committee or
8 appropriations subcommittee of either house of the legislature
9 having jurisdiction over child protective services matters.

10 (n) The child advocate appointed under the office of the child
11 advocate act, 1994 PA 204, MCL 722.921 to 722.932.

12 (o) A child fatality review team established under section 7b
13 and authorized under that section to investigate and review a child
14 death.

15 (p) A county medical examiner or deputy county medical
16 examiner appointed under 1953 PA 181, MCL 52.201 to 52.216, for the
17 purpose of carrying out ~~his or her~~ **the medical examiner's** duties
18 under that act.

19 (q) A citizen review panel established by the department.
20 Access under this subdivision is limited to information the
21 department determines necessary for the panel to carry out its
22 prescribed duties.

23 (r) A child care regulatory agency.

24 (s) A foster care review board for the purpose of meeting the
25 requirements of 1984 PA 422, MCL 722.131 to 722.139a.

26 (t) A local friend of the court office.

27 (u) A department employee actively representing ~~himself or~~
28 ~~herself~~ **themselves** in a disciplinary action, a labor union
29 representative who is actively representing a department employee

1 in a disciplinary action, or an arbitrator or administrative law
2 judge conducting a hearing involving a department employee's
3 dereliction, malfeasance, or misfeasance of duty, for use solely in
4 connection with that action or hearing. Information disclosed under
5 this subdivision must be returned not later than 10 days after the
6 conclusion of the action or hearing. A recipient must not receive
7 further disclosures under this subdivision while ~~he or she~~ **the**
8 **recipient** retains disclosed information beyond the deadline
9 specified for return.

10 (v) A federal or state governmental agency that may, by law,
11 conduct an audit or similar review of the department's activities
12 under this act.

13 (w) A children's advocacy center in the course of providing
14 services to a child alleged to have been the victim of child abuse
15 or child neglect or to that child's family.

16 (x) A tribal representative, agency, or organization,
17 including a multidisciplinary team, authorized by the Indian
18 child's tribe, to care for, diagnose, treat, review, evaluate, or
19 monitor active efforts regarding an Indian child, parent, or Indian
20 custodian. As used in this subdivision, "active efforts", "Indian
21 child", "Indian child's tribe", "Indian custodian", and "parent"
22 mean those terms as defined in section 3 of chapter XIIB of the
23 probate code of 1939, 1939 PA 288, MCL 712B.3.

24 (y) A child caring institution licensed under 1973 PA 116, MCL
25 722.111 to 722.128, for the purpose of investigating an applicant
26 for employment or an employee of a child caring institution to
27 determine suitability of the applicant or employee for initial or
28 continued employment. The child caring institution must disclose
29 the information to the applicant or employee.

1 (z) An individual who is a state legislator at the time of the
2 request.

3 (aa) A member of the media. As used in this subdivision,
4 "member of the media" means a news reporter or a press photographer
5 who holds valid press identification credentials.

6 (2) Subject to subsection (4), a person or entity to whom
7 information described in subsection (1) is disclosed shall make the
8 information available only to a person or entity described in
9 subsection (1). This subsection does not require a court proceeding
10 to be closed that otherwise would be open to the public.

11 (3) In releasing information under this act, the department
12 shall not include a report compiled by a police agency or other law
13 enforcement agency related to an ongoing investigation of suspected
14 child abuse or child neglect. This subsection does not prohibit the
15 department from releasing reports of convictions of crimes related
16 to child abuse or child neglect.

17 (4) A member or staff member of a citizen review panel shall
18 not disclose identifying information about a specific child
19 protection case to an individual, partnership, corporation,
20 association, governmental entity, or other legal entity. A member
21 or staff member of a citizen review panel is a member of a board,
22 council, commission, or statutorily created task force of a
23 governmental agency for the purposes of section 7 of 1964 PA 170,
24 MCL 691.1407. Information obtained by a citizen review panel is not
25 subject to the freedom of information act, 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231
26 to 15.246.

27 (5) Documents, reports, or records authored by or obtained
28 from another agency or organization shall not be released or open
29 for inspection under subsection (1) unless required by other state

1 or federal law, in response to an order issued by a judge,
2 magistrate, or other authorized judicial officer, or unless the
3 documents, reports, or records are requested for a child abuse or
4 child neglect case or for a criminal investigation of a child abuse
5 or child neglect case conducted by law enforcement.

6 (6) Notwithstanding subsection (1), information or records in
7 the possession of the department or the department of licensing and
8 regulatory affairs may be shared to the extent necessary for the
9 proper functioning of the department or the department of licensing
10 and regulatory affairs in administering child welfare or child care
11 organization licensing under 1973 PA 116, MCL 722.111 to 722.128,
12 or in an investigation conducted under section 43b of the social
13 welfare act, 1939 PA 280, MCL 400.43b. Information or records
14 shared under this subsection shall not be released by either the
15 department or the department of licensing and regulatory affairs
16 unless otherwise permitted under this act or other state or federal
17 law. Neither the department nor the department of licensing and
18 regulatory affairs shall release or open for inspection any
19 document, report, or record authored by or obtained from another
20 agency or organization unless 1 of the conditions of subsection (5)
21 applies.