

## RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 207 (HB 371)

2018 Regular Session

Chaney

Existing law provides relative to the reporting of child abuse and neglect cases.

Prior law required reports of child abuse or neglect where the abuser is believed to be a parent or caretaker, a person who maintains an interpersonal dating or engagement relationship with the parent or caretaker, or a person living in the same residence with the parent or caretaker as a spouse whether married or not, to be made to the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) through the designated state child protection reporting hotline telephone number.

New law requires such reports to be made to DCFS but requires permitted reporters to make reports to the designated child protection reporting hotline. New law also adds reporting in person at any DCFS child welfare office as a means for permitted reporters to report suspected cases of child abuse or neglect.

New law provides that mandatory reporters of suspected child abuse or neglect shall report such cases through the DCFS designated child protection reporting hotline, via the DCFS Mandated Reporter Portal online, or in person at any child welfare office.

New law stipulates that making a report of suspected child abuse or neglect to DCFS by facsimile does not relieve the reporter of his duty to report in accordance with existing law and new law.

Prior law provided that if a mandatory reporter's initial report of suspected child abuse or neglect was in oral form, then it shall be followed by a written report made within five days to the local child protection unit of DCFS. New law revises prior law to provide that if a mandatory reporter's initial report was in oral form, then it shall be followed by a written report made within five days via the online DCFS Mandated Reporter Portal or by mail to the DCFS centralized intake unit.

Effective August 1, 2018.

(Amends Ch. C. Art. 610(A) and (D))