

**HOUSE BILL NO. 343**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVE MUÑOZ**

**Introduced: 2/22/12**

**Referred: Health and Social Services, Judiciary**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to disclosure of records of the Department of Health and Social**  
2 **Services pertaining to children in certain circumstances; and providing for an effective**  
3 **date."**

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 **\* Section 1.** AS 47.10.093(b) is amended to read:

6 (b) A state or municipal agency or employee shall disclose appropriate  
7 confidential information regarding a case to

8 (1) a guardian ad litem appointed by the court;

9 (2) a person or an agency requested by the department or the child's  
10 legal custodian to provide consultation or services for a child who is subject to the  
11 jurisdiction of the court under AS 47.10.010 as necessary to enable the provision of  
12 the consultation or services;

13 (3) an out-of-home care provider as necessary to enable the out-of-  
14 home care provider to provide appropriate care to the child, to protect the safety of the

1 child, and to protect the safety and property of family members and visitors of the out-  
2 of-home care provider;

3 (4) a school official as necessary to enable the school to provide  
4 appropriate counseling and support services to a child who is the subject of the case, to  
5 protect the safety of the child, and to protect the safety of school students and staff;

6 (5) a governmental agency as necessary to obtain that agency's  
7 assistance for the department in its investigation or to obtain physical custody of a  
8 child;

9 (6) a law enforcement agency of this state or another jurisdiction as  
10 necessary for the protection of any child or for actions by that agency to protect the  
11 public safety;

12 (7) a member of a multidisciplinary child protection team created  
13 under AS 47.14.300 as necessary for the performance of the member's duties;

14 (8) the state medical examiner under AS 12.65 as necessary for the  
15 performance of the duties of the state medical examiner;

16 (9) a person who has made a report of harm as required by  
17 AS 47.17.020 to inform the person that the investigation was completed and of action  
18 taken to protect the child who was the subject of the report;

19 (10) the child support services agency established in AS 25.27.010 as  
20 necessary to establish and collect child support for a child who is a child in need of aid  
21 under this chapter;

22 (11) a parent, guardian, or caregiver of a child or an entity responsible  
23 for ensuring the safety of children as necessary to protect the safety of a child;

24 (12) a review panel established by the department for the purpose of  
25 reviewing the actions taken by the department in a specific case; [AND]

26 (13) the University of Alaska under the Alaska higher education  
27 savings program for children established under AS 47.14.400, but only to the extent  
28 that the information is necessary to support the program and only if the information  
29 released is maintained as a confidential record by the University of Alaska;

30 **(14) a child placement agency licensed under AS 47.32 as**  
31 **necessary to provide services for a child who is the subject of the case; and**

1                    **(15) a state or municipal agency of this state or another**  
2                    **jurisdiction responsible for delinquent minors, as may be necessary for the**  
3                    **administration of services, protection, rehabilitation, or supervision of a child or**  
4                    **for actions by the agency to protect the public safety.**

5                    \* **Sec. 2.** AS 47.12.310(b) is amended to read:

6                    (b) A state or municipal agency or employee shall disclose

7                    (1) information regarding a case to a federal, state, or municipal law  
8 enforcement agency for a specific investigation being conducted by that agency;

9                    (2) appropriate information regarding a case to

10                    (A) a guardian ad litem appointed by the court;

11                    (B) a person or an agency requested by the department or the  
12 minor's legal custodian to provide consultation or services for a minor who is  
13 subject to the jurisdiction of the court under this chapter as necessary to enable  
14 the provision of the consultation or services;

15                    (C) school officials as may be necessary to protect the safety of  
16 the minor who is the subject of the case and the safety of school students and  
17 staff or to enable the school to provide appropriate counseling and supportive  
18 services to meet the needs of a minor about whom information is disclosed;

19                    (D) a governmental agency as may be necessary to obtain that  
20 agency's assistance for the department in its investigation or to obtain physical  
21 custody of a minor;

22                    (E) a law enforcement agency of this state or another  
23 jurisdiction as may be necessary for the protection, rehabilitation, or  
24 supervision of any minor or for actions by that agency to protect the public  
25 safety;

26                    (F) a victim or to the victim's insurance company as may be  
27 necessary to inform the victim or the insurance company about the arrest of the  
28 minor, including the minor's name and the names of the minor's parents, copies  
29 of reports, or the disposition or resolution of a case involving a minor;

30                    (G) the state medical examiner under AS 12.65 as may be  
31 necessary to perform the duties of the state medical examiner;

1 (H) foster parents or relatives with whom the child is placed by  
 2 the department as may be necessary to enable the foster parents or relatives to  
 3 provide appropriate care for the child who is the subject of the case, to protect  
 4 the safety of the child who is the subject of the case, and to protect the safety  
 5 and property of family members and visitors of the foster parents or relatives;

6 (I) the Department of Law or its agent for use and subsequent  
 7 release if necessary for collection of an order of restitution on behalf of the  
 8 recipient;

9 (J) the Violent Crimes Compensation Board established in  
 10 AS 18.67.020 for use in awarding compensation under AS 18.67.080; [AND]

11 (K) a state, municipal, or federal agency of this state or another  
 12 jurisdiction that has the authority to license adult or children's facilities and  
 13 services;

14 **(L) a child placement agency licensed under AS 47.32 as**  
 15 **necessary to provide services for a minor who is subject to the jurisdiction**  
 16 **of the court under this chapter; and**

17 **(M) a state or municipal agency of this state or another**  
 18 **jurisdiction responsible for child protection services, as may be necessary**  
 19 **for the administration of services, protection, rehabilitation, or**  
 20 **supervision of a minor or for actions by the agency to protect the public**  
 21 **safety; and**

22 (3) to the University of Alaska under the Alaska higher education  
 23 savings program for children established under AS 47.14.400 information that is  
 24 necessary to support the program, but only if the information released is maintained as  
 25 a confidential record by the University of Alaska.

26 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 47.12.310(f) is amended to read:

27 (f) The department may release to a person with a legitimate interest  
 28 information relating to **a minor** [MINORS NOT] subject to the jurisdiction of the  
 29 **department** [COURT] under this chapter. The department shall adopt **regulations**  
 30 **under AS 44.62 to implement this subsection, including** regulations governing the  
 31 release of information and **standards for** identifying a [SUFFICIENT] legitimate

1 interest in the information.

2 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 47.12.315 is repealed and reenacted to read:

3 **Sec. 47.12.315. Public disclosure of information in department records**  
 4 **relating to certain minors.** (a) Notwithstanding AS 47.12.310 and except as  
 5 otherwise provided in this section, the department shall disclose information to the  
 6 public, on request, concerning a minor subject to this chapter who was at least 13  
 7 years of age at the time of commission of

8 (1) a felony offense against a person under AS 11.41;

9 (2) arson in the first or second degree;

10 (3) burglary in the first degree;

11 (4) distribution of child pornography;

12 (5) promoting prostitution in the first degree;

13 (6) misconduct involving a controlled substance in the first, second, or  
 14 third degrees involving distribution or possession with intent to deliver; or

15 (7) misconduct involving weapons in the first through fifth degrees.

16 (b) The department may disclose the information authorized in (a) of this  
 17 section only if

18 (1) the department has filed a petition seeking adjudication of the  
 19 minor as a delinquent on the offense;

20 (2) the court has arraigned the minor on the petition; and

21 (3) the court has entered a finding that probable cause exists that the  
 22 minor committed the delinquent act charged in the petition.

23 (c) When required by this section to disclose information, the department may  
 24 disclose only the name of the minor, the name of each legal parent or guardian, the  
 25 specific offense alleged to have been committed in the petition, and the final outcome  
 26 of the court proceedings relating to the offense. Before the disclosure, the department  
 27 shall delete the information that identifies the victim of the offense.

28 (d) The department may not disclose the name of an out-of-home care  
 29 provider with whom the minor was living at the time the minor was alleged to have  
 30 committed the offense.

31 (e) If the department or other state or municipal agency maintains the

1 information to be disclosed by electronic means that can be recovered from a  
 2 computer database, the department or agency may disclose the information in that  
 3 medium.

4 (f) The department may not release information under this section after five  
 5 years from the date the department or other agency is first required or authorized to  
 6 make the disclosure under this section.

7 (g) When disclosure is required under this section, the department may  
 8 petition the court for an order prohibiting the disclosure. The court may grant the  
 9 petition if, based on information presented in the petition or at an in camera hearing  
 10 held on the petition, the court finds that

11 (1) the crime was an isolated incident and the minor does not present  
 12 any further danger to the public; or

13 (2) the victim agrees that disclosure is inappropriate.

14 (h) In this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "out-of-home care  
 15 provider" means a person, other than the child's legal parents, with whom a child who  
 16 is in the custody of the state under AS 47.10, AS 47.12, or AS 47.14 is currently  
 17 placed, including a foster parent, a relative other than a parent, and a person who has  
 18 petitioned for adoption or guardianship of the child.

19 \* **Sec. 5.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
 20 read:

21 **TRANSITION: REGULATIONS.** The Department of Health and Social Services may  
 22 adopt regulations necessary to implement the changes made by this Act. The regulations take  
 23 effect under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), but not before the effective date of  
 24 secs. 1 - 4 of this Act.

25 \* **Sec. 6.** Section 5 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

26 \* **Sec. 7.** Except as provided in sec. 6 of this Act, this Act takes effect July 1, 2012.