

Alaska State Legislature

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SPONSOR STATEMENT

SB 171 Multidisciplinary Child Protection Teams (MDT)

The Child Justice Act Task Force requested this legislation to clarify there are child abuse cases that may not involve the Office of Children's Services (OCS) and the law is gray on whether or not a multidisciplinary investigative team can function under state statute without the involvement of OCS.

An example of such an investigation would be a case in which one parent sexually abused a child and the other parent discovers the situation, reports the sexual abuse, removes the child from physical contact of the other parent, and the offending parent is arrested.

MDT's do conduct such investigations currently but there is some disagreement about whether or not this is occurring within the boundaries of the law. SB 171 takes uncertainty away.