

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

EDUCATION

ETHICS

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

RULES

WORLD TRADE



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Juvenile: Justice, Facilities, Treatment Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 99

Version: 32-LS0630\A

In 2013, Daniel Carey, staff at a Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) facility, engaged in a sexual relationship with a 17-year-old girl he had previously supervised in a DJJ facility. The State of Alaska sought conviction of Mr. Carey for sexual abuse of a minor; however, the court found that because DJJ staff are not clearly listed as being in a “position of authority” under *AS 11.41.470*, Mr. Carey was acquitted in 2017.

Senate Bill 99 seeks to close this loophole so that if such inappropriate behavior with minors were to occur again, DJJ staff could be prosecuted for the offense of sexual abuse of a minor.

In addition, Senate Bill 99 makes clarifying changes throughout state statutes to align, correct, and update outdated terminology for juvenile justice and staff. This bill also adds juvenile probation officers and staff of juvenile facilities to the list of “persons required to report” child abuse and neglect under the child abuse reporting statute, *Alaska Statute 47.17.020*. Currently, these staff are not included even though youth frequently disclose abuse to them.

Senate Bill 99 will enhance the Division of Juvenile Justice’s ability to operate and develop clear regulations and policy. It codifies best practices to ensure safe and secure treatment of juveniles in Alaska.