

1 IN THE SENATE

BY CHANCE

2 *HCS* SENATE BILL NO. 371 *am*

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 NINTH LEGISLATURE -- FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to child protection; and providing  
7 for an effective date."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 \* Section 1. AS 47.17.010 is amended to read:

10 Sec. 47.17.010. PURPOSE. In order to protect children whose  
11 health and well-being may be adversely affected through the infliction,  
12 by other than accidental means, of harm through [PHYSICAL] abuse or  
13 neglect requiring the attention of a practitioner of the healing arts,  
14 the legislature requires the reporting of these cases by practitioners  
15 and others to the appropriate public authorities. It is the intent of  
16 the legislature that, as a result of these reports, protective services  
17 will be made available in an effort to prevent further harm to the child,  
18 to safeguard and enhance the general well-being of the children in this  
19 state, and to preserve family life whenever possible.

20 \* Sec. 2. AS 47.17.030 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

21 (e) In all actions taken by the department or a health and social  
22 services agency of a local government under this chapter, the child  
23 shall be represented by a guardian ad litem.

24 \* Sec. 3. AS 47.17.040(b) is amended to read:

25 (b) Investigation reports and reports of harm filed under this  
26 chapter are considered confidential and are not subject to public in-  
27 spection and copying under AS 09.25.110 and 09.25.120. However, in  
28 accordance with department regulations, investigation reports may be  
29 used by appropriate governmental agencies with child-protection

1 functions, inside and outside Alaska, in connection with investigations  
2 or judicial proceedings involving child abuse, neglect, or custody. A  
3 person, not acting in accordance with department regulations, who makes  
4 public information contained in confidential reports is guilty of a  
5 misdemeanor.

6 \* Sec. 4. AS 47.17.070(1) is repealed and re-enacted to read:

7 (1) "child abuse or neglect" means the physical or mental  
8 injury, sexual abuse, negligent treatment, or maltreatment of a child  
9 under the age of eighteen by a person who is responsible for the child's  
10 welfare under circumstances which indicate that the child's health or  
11 welfare is harmed or threatened thereby.

12 \* Sec. 5. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.10.-  
13 070(c).