



SB 101 – Interviewing Children in Private Schools

Concept: Authorizes child abuse investigation or interview of child who is the subject of child abuse report on private as well as public school premises. Provides that schools are not authorized to notify individuals of an interview or an investigation.

Need for policy change: Currently the statute suggests that investigating/ interviewing children on school premises only applies to public school premises. Private schools regularly restrict access because they do not believe the statute applies to them. Additionally, many public school districts in varying parts of the state have adopted a process of notifying parents that CPS is there to interview the child. School personnel are providing these notifications to the parents who are the alleged perpetrators. This often results in the parent restricting our ability to interview the child which compromises child safety. The school districts convey that they are required to do this. This change clearly describes a limit to notification.

Impact if not approved: *Child safety will be compromised.* CPS workers will continue to be restricted access to children who are alleged victims of child abuse. Additionally, school personnel will continue to believe they are “required” to notify parents when CPS workers are attempting to interview their children.

Facts: The 2015 Oregon Child Welfare Data Book information on child abuse and neglect perpetrators indicates that 94.4% of offenders are family members with parents representing 78.8 % of perpetrators. Notifying parents of interviews when one or both of them are alleged perpetrators can put children and other family members in danger.

Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal impact.

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