

HOUSE BILL 2299
By DeBerry L

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 9, Chapter 6,
Part 1, relative to child advocacy centers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 9, Chapter 6, Part 1, is amended by
adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

On and after July 1, 1998, no state funds appropriated specifically for child
advocacy centers shall be allocated or paid to any such center unless the center clearly
demonstrates that it:

- (1) is governed by a board of directors;
- (2) employs an executive director who is answerable to the board and who is not
the exclusive salaried employee of any governmental entity signing the
memorandum of understanding and working protocol identified in item (3)
below;
- (3) has a signed memorandum of understanding and working protocol executed
among:
 - (A) the department of children's services;
 - (B) all county and municipal law enforcement agencies within the area
served by the center;
 - (C) all district attorney offices within the area served by the center; and

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- (D) any other governmental entity that participates in child abuse investigations or offers services to child abuse victims within the area served by the center;
- (4) uses a multidisciplinary team, (representing prosecutorial, law enforcement, mental health, medical, child protective and social services professionals), to jointly:
 - (A) assess victims of child abuse and their families;
 - (B) determine the need for services;
 - (C) provide such services; and
 - (D) monitor the case's progress; and
- (5) provides a facility, located in a neutral and physically separate space from the day-to-day operations of the governmental entities signing the memorandum of understanding and working protocol identified in item (3) above, at which facility the multidisciplinary team meets to coordinate the efficient and appropriate disposition of child abuse cases through the civil and criminal justice systems.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.