

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**ENGROSSED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted  
on Second Reading in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 26-0531.01 Chelsea Princell x4335

**HOUSE BILL 26-1142**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Taggart and Boesenecker**, Espenoza

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

(None),

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**House Committees**  
Health & Human Services

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS IN CASES OF CHILD**  
102 **MALTREATMENT.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill amends the definition of "child advocacy center" and establishes civil immunity for a board member, staff member, or volunteer of a child advocacy center that arises from the performance of the board member's, staff member's, or volunteer's duties if the board member's, staff member's, or volunteer's acts are in good faith.

The bill allows certain entities to share information under certain

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.*  
*Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
February 20, 2026

circumstances that is relevant to the protection of a child that is the subject of a child maltreatment case.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2           **SECTION 1. Short title.** The short title of this act is the  
3 "Colorado Child Advocacy Center Act".

4           **SECTION 2. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
5 finds that:

6           (a) Children who are victims of child maltreatment and children  
7 who witness violent crimes deserve a coordinated, trauma-informed  
8 response that prioritizes their safety, well-being, and healing;

9           (b) Child advocacy centers provide a proven, child-focused model  
10 for the investigation, treatment, and prosecution of child maltreatment  
11 through multidisciplinary collaboration with law enforcement, child  
12 protective services, prosecutors, medical and mental health professionals,  
13 and victim advocates;

14           (c) Colorado's statutes currently reference child advocacy centers  
15 minimally and do not define what constitutes a child advocacy center or  
16 its standards of practice;

17           (d) Establishing a clear statutory definition of a child advocacy  
18 center and promoting consistent statewide practices will strengthen  
19 Colorado's child protection network; and

20           (e) Clarifying confidentiality, information-sharing, and limited  
21 immunity provisions for child advocacy center staff will encourage  
22 collaboration while protecting children and families.

23           (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that it is necessary to  
24 enact the "Colorado Child Advocacy Center Act" to modernize the  
25 statutory framework for children's advocacy centers, ensure statewide

1 consistency, and enhance a coordinated response to child maltreatment.

2 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 19-1-103, **amend**  
3 **(23)** as follows:

4 **19-1-103. Definitions.**

5 As used in this title 19 or in the specified portion of this title 19,  
6 unless the context otherwise requires:

7 **(23) (a)** "Child advocacy center", as used in part 3 of article 3 of  
8 this title 19, means ~~a center that provides a comprehensive~~  
9 ~~multidisciplinary team response to allegations of child abuse or neglect~~  
10 ~~in a dedicated, child-friendly setting. The team response to allegations of~~  
11 ~~child abuse or neglect includes but is not limited to technical assistance~~  
12 ~~for forensic interviews, forensic medical examinations, mental health and~~  
13 ~~related support services, consultation, training, and education.~~ AN  
14 INDEPENDENT, CHILD-FOCUSED, AND TRAUMA-INFORMED FACILITY-BASED  
15 CENTER THAT:

16 **(I)** IS IN GOOD STANDING WITH AN ACCREDITED STATE CHAPTER OF  
17 A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AND ACCREDITING BODY THAT PROVIDES  
18 SUPPORT, ADVOCACY, QUALITY ASSURANCE, AND NATIONAL LEADERSHIP  
19 FOR CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS, WHICH STATE CHAPTER OVERSEES AND  
20 PROVIDES GUIDANCE TO CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS OPERATING IN THE  
21 STATE; AND

22 **(II)** COORDINATES WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM LAW  
23 ENFORCEMENT AND CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES, PROSECUTORS, MENTAL  
24 HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS, FORENSIC  
25 INTERVIEWERS, AND VICTIM ADVOCACY GROUPS TO ENSURE A SAFE,  
26 COORDINATED, TRAUMA-INFORMED, AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY  
27 INVESTIGATIVE RESPONSE TO A CHILD SUSPECTED TO BE A VICTIM OF CHILD

1 ABUSE AND THE CHILD'S CAREGIVERS AND TO DETERMINE WHAT SERVICES  
2 NEED TO BE PROVIDED TO THE CHILD AND THE CHILD'S CAREGIVERS.

3 (b) "CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER" DOES NOT INCLUDE A  
4 HEALTH-CARE INSTITUTION OR A HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONAL, AS THOSE  
5 TERMS ARE DEFINED IN SECTION 13-64-202.

6

7 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 19-3-319 as  
8 follows:

9 **19-3-319. Child advocacy centers - information sharing - civil**  
10 **immunity - definitions.**

11 (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
12 REQUIRES:

13 (a) "CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM" MEANS  
14 A GROUP OF PROFESSIONALS WHO WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH A CHILD  
15 ADVOCACY CENTER ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN SERVED BY A CHILD  
16 ADVOCACY CENTER TO SHARE INFORMATION TO INFORM THE  
17 INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF CHILD MALTREATMENT AND TO  
18 COORDINATE SERVICES IN RESPONSE TO REPORTS OF CHILD  
19 MALTREATMENT. A CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM  
20 MUST INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM, THE FOLLOWING PROFESSIONALS:

21 (I) A MEMBER OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY;

22 (II) A DISTRICT ATTORNEY OR ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY;

23 (III) A MEMBER OF THE DEPARTMENT'S CHILD PROTECTIVE  
24 SERVICES UNIT;

25 (IV) A LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER;

26 (V) A LOCAL HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER;

27 (VI) A VICTIM ADVOCATE; AND

1 (VII) CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER STAFF.

2 (b) "CHILD MALTREATMENT" MEANS CONDUCT THAT INVOLVES  
3 SEXUAL OR PHYSICAL ABUSE OF A CHILD, NEGLECT OF A CHILD, HUMAN  
4 TRAFFICKING OF A CHILD, OR EXPLOITATION OF A CHILD.

5 (2)(a) THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT MAY SHARE INFORMATION THAT  
6 IS RELEVANT TO THE PROTECTION OF A CHILD WHO IS THE SUBJECT OF A  
7 CHILD MALTREATMENT CASE WITH THE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER  
8 MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM WORKING ON BEHALF OF THE CHILD.

9 (b) MEMBERS OF A CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER MULTIDISCIPLINARY  
10 TEAM MAY SHARE INFORMATION THAT IS RELEVANT TO THE PROTECTION  
11 OF A CHILD WHO IS THE SUBJECT OF A CHILD MALTREATMENT CASE AMONG  
12 THE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM AND THE  
13 COUNTY DEPARTMENT.

14 (c) ANY INFORMATION SHARED AMONG COUNTY DEPARTMENTS  
15 AND CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM MEMBERS  
16 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS (2)(a) AND (2)(b) OF THIS SECTION MUST:

17 (I) REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL, EXCEPT WHEN DISCLOSURE IS  
18 REQUIRED BY LAW, INCLUDING THE COLORADO RULES OF JUVENILE  
19 PROCEDURE;

20 (II) BE WITHHELD FROM PUBLIC INSPECTION; AND

21 (III) ONLY BE USED TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY FOR THE COUNTY  
22 DEPARTMENT OR CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM TO  
23 PERFORM ITS DUTIES.

24 (3) (a) A CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM  
25 MEMBER WHO PARTICIPATES IN GOOD FAITH IN TEAM DISCUSSIONS BY  
26 PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT A CHILD WHOSE CASE IS BEING REVIEWED  
27 BY A CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM IS IMMUNE

1 FROM ANY CIVIL OR CRIMINAL LIABILITY FOR DISCLOSURE OF  
2 INFORMATION WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER  
3 MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM, UNLESS THE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION WAS  
4 DUE TO GROSS NEGLIGENCE, WANTON CONDUCT, OR INTENTIONAL  
5 WRONGDOING.

6 (b) A BOARD MEMBER, STAFF MEMBER, OR VOLUNTEER OF A CHILD  
7 ADVOCACY CENTER IS IMMUNE FROM CIVIL LIABILITY ARISING FROM THE  
8 INVESTIGATION OF CHILD MALTREATMENT OR DISCLOSURE OF  
9 INFORMATION WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER  
10 MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CHILD ADVOCACY  
11 CENTER IF THE PERSON'S ACTS WERE REASONABLE AND PERFORMED IN  
12 GOOD FAITH. IMMUNITY EXTENDED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (3)(b)  
13 DOES NOT EXTEND TO ACTS OF GROSS NEGLIGENCE, WANTON  
14 MISCONDUCT, OR INTENTIONAL WRONGDOING ARISING OUT OF THE  
15 INVESTIGATION OF CHILD MALTREATMENT OR DISCLOSURE OF  
16 INFORMATION WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER  
17 MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CHILD ADVOCACY  
18 CENTER. IMMUNITY EXTENDED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (3)(b)  
19 DOES NOT EXTEND TO ACTIONS THAT CONSTITUTE MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE,  
20 AS GOVERNED BY THE "HEALTH CARE AVAILABILITY ACT" IN PART 1 OF  
21 ARTICLE 64 OF TITLE 13, OR ACTIONS GOVERNED BY THE "PREMISES  
22 LIABILITY ACT" IN PART 1 OF ARTICLE 21 OF PART 13.

23 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-3-505, **amend**  
24 (1)(b)(XXI) as follows:

25 **18-3-505. Human trafficking council - created - duties - repeal.**

26 (1) (b) The membership of the council must reflect, to the extent  
27 possible, representation of urban and rural areas of the state and a balance

1 of expertise, both governmental and nongovernmental, in issues relating  
2 to human trafficking. The council must include members with expertise  
3 in child welfare and human services to address the unique needs of child  
4 victims, including those child victims who are involved in the child  
5 welfare system. The membership of the council consists of the following  
6 persons, appointed as follows:

7 (XXI) A representative of a child advocacy center, AS DEFINED IN  
8 SECTION 19-1-103;

9 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-1.9-102.3, **amend**  
10 (2)(e) as follows:

11 **24-1.9-102.3. Duties of individualized service and support**  
12 **teams.**

13 (2) The information form for children created in section  
14 24-1.9-102.7, or any other form created by the local collaborative  
15 management program, may be used by multiple agencies to refer a child  
16 to a local collaborative management program in accordance with the local  
17 collaborative management program's memorandum of understanding.  
18 Such agencies include, but are not limited to:

19 (e) A child advocacy center, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 19-1-103; and

20 **SECTION 7. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
21 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
22 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
23 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a  
24 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
25 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
26 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
27 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in

- 1 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
- 2 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.