

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

REENGROSSED

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

LLS NO. 26-0531.01 Chelsea Princell x4335

HOUSE BILL 26-1142

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

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

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
3rd Reading Unamended
February 23, 2026

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.

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.