

House Engrossed

DCS; abuse investigation; protective parent

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

HOUSE BILL 4004

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 8, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
ADDING SECTION 8-469.03; RELATING TO CHILD WELFARE.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Title 8, chapter 4, article 1, Arizona Revised Statutes,
3 is amended by adding section 8-469.03, to read:

4 8-469.03. Abuse; neglect; protective parent; mandatory
5 intervention; report; definition

6 A. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL INITIATE AN INVESTIGATION AND PROTECTIVE
7 ACTION WHEN THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES A CREDIBLE REPORT OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT
8 OF A CHILD THROUGH THE CENTRALIZED INTAKE HOTLINE PURSUANT TO SECTION
9 8-455 EVEN IF ONE OF THE CHILD'S PARENTS IS A PROTECTIVE PARENT.

10 B. AFTER RECEIVING A REPORT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION A OF THIS
11 SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT MAY TAKE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

12 1. BEGIN AN IMMEDIATE AND THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF THE ALLEGATION
13 OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT.

14 2. DEVELOP A SAFETY PLAN FOR THE CHILD.

15 3. PROVIDE SUPPORT SERVICES TO THE CHILD AND THE CHILD'S PROTECTIVE
16 PARENT.

17 4. PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TEMPORARY MODIFICATION OF PARENTING
18 TIME OR LEGAL DECISION-MAKING ORDERS WHEN A CREDIBLE RISK OF HARM TO THE
19 CHILD EXISTS.

20 C. THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT DECLINE TO INVESTIGATE AN ALLEGATION OF
21 ABUSE OR NEGLECT SOLELY BECAUSE THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT ONE PARENT
22 MAY BE ABLE TO PROTECT THE CHILD IF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING EXISTS:

23 1. THE PARENT WHO IS ALLEGED TO HAVE ABUSED OR NEGLECTED THE CHILD
24 HAS PARENTING TIME OR LEGAL DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO A
25 CURRENT PARENTING TIME OR LEGAL DECISION-MAKING ORDER.

26 2. THE PROTECTIVE PARENT LACKS THE RESOURCES, AUTHORITY OR CAPACITY
27 TO ENSURE THE CHILD'S SAFETY.

28 D. IF THE PARENTS OF THE CHILD ARE LEGALLY SEPARATED OR OTHERWISE
29 DO NOT RESIDE IN THE SAME HOUSEHOLD AND THE PROTECTIVE PARENT PROVIDES A
30 SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE CHILD, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONTINUE TO
31 INVESTIGATE THE PARENT WHO IS THE SUBJECT OF THE ALLEGATION OF ABUSE OR
32 NEGLECT. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

33 1. CONDUCT A FULL INVESTIGATION OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF THE PARENT WHO
34 IS THE SUBJECT OF THE ALLEGATION OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT.

35 2. PROVIDE SAFETY PLANNING AND PROTECTIVE MEASURES TO THE
36 PROTECTIVE PARENT WHO IS NOT THE SUBJECT OF AN ALLEGATION OF ABUSE OR
37 NEGLECT.

38 3. PARTICIPATE IN JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS INVOLVING THE CHILD OR THE
39 PARENT WHO IS THE SUBJECT OF AN ALLEGATION OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT TO ENSURE
40 THAT RESTRICTIONS OR PROTECTIVE ORDERS ARE IMPLEMENTED AGAINST THE PARENT
41 WHO IS THE SUBJECT OF AN ALLEGATION OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT.

1 E. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ANNUALLY PUBLISH ON THE DEPARTMENT'S
2 OFFICIAL WEBSITE A REPORT THAT INCLUDES ALL OF THE FOLLOWING REGARDING
3 CASES RECEIVED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION THAT INVOLVE AN ALLEGATION OF
4 ABUSE OR NEGLECT:

5 1. THE NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH THE DEPARTMENT DECLINED TO
6 INTERVENE.

7 2. THE REASONS WHY THE DEPARTMENT DECLINED TO INTERVENE.

8 3. THE OUTCOME OF CASES IN WHICH THE DEPARTMENT DECLINED TO
9 INTERVENE AND IF THERE WERE ANY SUBSEQUENT FINDINGS OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT.

10 F. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "CHILD" MEANS A CHILD WHO IS
11 THE SUBJECT OF A REPORT OF ALLEGED ABUSE OR NEGLECT.