

HB 2420 -- Child Protection

Sponsor: Kander

This bill changes the laws regarding child protection. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Specifies that the provisions regarding the Amber Alert System will be known as Sam and Lindsey's Law;
- (2) Requires a local law enforcement agency to immediately notify the state Amber alert coordinator or his or her designee whenever a request for an Amber alert is denied;
- (3) Requires a law enforcement agency maintaining the Missouri Uniform Law Enforcement System (MULES) when entering an order of protection to include any orders regarding child custody or visitation and all specifics as to times and dates of custody or visitation provided in the order. Any change in child custody or visitation within an order must be issued to the local law enforcement agency and the agency responsible for entering the information into MULES;
- (4) Requires a law enforcement officer upon stopping, detaining, or arresting a person and prior to releasing the person to check MULES to determine if the person has a valid order of protection entered against him or her which designates child custody or visitation. If an order is found, the officer must check to determine if the person currently has custody or visitation rights at the time and date of the stop, detention, or arrest. If the officer determines that the person is supposed to currently have the children and the children are present, the officer must check the welfare of the children. If the officer determines the person is supposed to currently have the children and the children are not present, the officer must check the welfare of the children in accordance with a policy developed by the officer's law enforcement agency and cannot release the person until that policy has been satisfied. A person cannot be detained regarding these provisions for more than 24 hours from the time of the stop, detention, or arrest. Every law enforcement agency must develop a policy detailing how its officers should check the welfare of children; and
- (5) Requires the court to deny a defendant's bail entirely until the child victim has been found in any case where the defendant has been arrested for child kidnapping or abduction and poses a danger to himself or herself, the child victim, the community, or any other person.