

HB 3451 -- RECORDINGS OF INTERVIEWS REGARDING CHILD ABUSE OR  
NEGLECT

SPONSOR: Seitz

This bill requires any face-to-face interview for the purposes of an assessment of alleged child abuse or neglect by the Department of Social Services be recorded either by audio or video. All recordings must be securely stored and only software or applications approved by the Department will be used to generate the recordings.

A person who is charged with alleged child abuse or neglect will be unable to sustain a motion or have standing objecting to any failure by the Department to comply with the requirements of this bill. Failure by the Department to comply cannot be the sole grounds to preclude statements made by a child during the interview that would be otherwise admissible in a criminal or civil proceeding.

Any recording must be retained and stored for no less than five years. Copies of any recordings can be issued only to those investigating an allegation or prosecuting an offense relating to an allegation, or upon request by a caregiver or guardian unless the court orders otherwise.