

SUBCHAPTER I—IMPROVING INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF CHILD ABUSE CASES

§ 13001. Findings

The Congress finds that—

(1) over 2,000,000 reports of suspected child abuse and neglect are made each year, and drug abuse is associated with a significant portion of these;

(2) the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases is extremely complex, involving numerous agencies and dozens of personnel;

(3) traditionally, community agencies and professionals have different roles in the prevention, investigation, and intervention process;

(4) in such cases, too often the system does not pay sufficient attention to the needs and welfare of the child victim, aggravating the trauma that the child victim has already experienced;

(5) there is a national need to enhance coordination among community agencies and professionals involved in the intervention system;

(6) multidisciplinary child abuse investigation and prosecution programs have been developed that increase the reporting of child abuse cases, reduce the trauma to the child victim, and increase the successful prosecution of child abuse offenders; and

(7) such programs have proven effective, and with targeted Federal assistance, could be duplicated in many jurisdictions throughout the country.

(Pub. L. 101-647, title II, §211, Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4792; Pub. L. 102-586, §6(a), Nov. 4, 1992, 106 Stat. 5029.)

AMENDMENTS

1992—Pars. (3) to (7). Pub. L. 102-586 added pars. (3) and (5) and redesignated former pars. (3), (4), and (5) as (4), (6), and (7), respectively.

SHORT TITLE OF 2014 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 113-163, §1, Aug. 8, 2014, 128 Stat. 1864, provided that: “This Act [enacting section 13005 of this title and amending sections 10601 and 13004 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Victims of Child Abuse Act Reauthorization Act of 2013.’”

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 101-647, title II, §201, Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4792, provided that: “This title [enacting this chapter, sections 3796aa to 3796aa-8 of this title, and sections 403, 2258, and 3509 of Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure, and amending sections 3742, 3782, 3783, 3789, 3793, and 3797 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.’”

§ 13001a. Definitions

For purposes of this subchapter—

(1) the term “Administrator” means the agency head designated under section 5611(b) of this title;

(2) the term “applicant” means a child protective service, law enforcement, legal, medical and mental health agency or other agency that responds to child abuse cases;

(3) the term “board” means the Children’s Advocacy Advisory Board established under section 13001b(e) of this title;

(4) the term “census region” means 1 of the 4 census regions (northeast, south, midwest, and west) that are designated as census regions by the Bureau of the Census as of November 4, 1992;

(5) the term “child abuse” means physical or sexual abuse or neglect of a child;

(6) the term “Director” means the Director of the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect;

(7) the term “multidisciplinary response to child abuse” means a response to child abuse that is based on mutually agreed upon procedures among the community agencies and professionals involved in the intervention, prevention, prosecution, and investigation systems that best meets the needs of child victims and their nonoffending family members;

(8) the term “nonoffending family member” means a member of the family of a victim of child abuse other than a member who has been convicted or accused of committing an act of child abuse; and

(9) the term “regional children’s advocacy program” means the children’s advocacy program established under section 13001b(a) of this title.

(Pub. L. 101-647, title II, §212, as added Pub. L. 102-586, §6(b)(2), Nov. 4, 1992, 106 Stat. 5029.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 212 of Pub. L. 101-647 was renumbered section 214 and is classified to section 13002 of this title.

§ 13001b. Regional children’s advocacy centers

(a) Establishment of regional children’s advocacy program

The Administrator, in coordination with the Director and with the Director of the Office of Victims of Crime, shall establish a children’s advocacy program to—

(1) focus attention on child victims by assisting communities in developing child-focused, community-oriented, facility-based programs designed to improve the resources available to children and families;

(2) provide support for nonoffending family members;

(3) enhance coordination among community agencies and professionals involved in the intervention, prevention, prosecution, and investigation systems that respond to child abuse cases; and

(4) train physicians and other health care and mental health care professionals in the multidisciplinary approach to child abuse so that trained medical personnel will be available to provide medical support to community agencies and professionals involved in the intervention, prevention, prosecution, and investigation systems that respond to child abuse cases.

(b) Activities of regional children’s advocacy program

(1) Administrator

The Administrator, in coordination with the Director, shall—

(A) establish regional children’s advocacy program centers;