

HB 485 -- Services for Children and Minors

Co-Sponsors: Johnson (90), Byrd

Currently, the law governing child abuse and neglect investigations requires parents to be notified before their child is interviewed when the parents are not the alleged abusers. This bill specifies that parents must be notified before their child is interviewed when the parents are not the alleged abusers and the abuse is alleged to have occurred in a school or a child care facility. Current law also prohibits the Division of Family Services from meeting with a child in a location where abuse is alleged to have occurred. The bill removes that prohibition and instead prohibits the division from meeting with the child at the child's school or child care facility.

The bill also allows court-appointed attorneys for parents and guardians ad litem in termination of parental rights cases to be awarded reasonable attorney fees, as determined by the court.