



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 231

SENATE BILL NO. 594

By Haile, Harper, Yager

Substituted for: House Bill No. 672

By Rogers, Weaver, Ragan, Towns, Hardaway

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, Chapter 1, Part 4 and Section 39-13-111, relative to children with hearing impairment.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-406, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

() (1) Any investigator or law enforcement officer who is investigating a possible domestic abuse or child abuse incident that may have involved or occurred in the presence of a hearing-impaired child shall not use the child's parent or family member as an interpreter. The investigator or officer shall instead communicate with the hearing-impaired child using an interpreter trained as a sign language interpreter.

(2) The interpreter may interpret from a remote location by communicating with the child using video remote interpreting. If the child is unable to understand, then a live, qualified interpreter from the list identified in subdivision (3) shall be used. The communication shall occur outside the presence of the child's parent, other family members, or potential abusers.

(3) Law enforcement agencies shall maintain a list of interpreters developed from a list provided by the Tennessee council for the deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 8, 2015



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 21st day of April 2015



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR