

From: Mottel, Haley <HaleyMottel@gov.sc.gov>

To: joellourie@gmail.com <joellourie@gmail.com>

CC: Veldran, Katherine <KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov>

Date: 3/25/2014 3:24:00 PM

Subject: DSS Transparency Language Draft

Attachments: [Proposal disclosure amendment.DSS.docx](#)
[disclosure amendment summary.DSS.docx](#)

Senator Lourie,

As a follow up from our discussion earlier, I have attached is the proposed DSS transparency language and summary. There are four points that are addressed in the draft that will allow for more disclosure by DSS. In particular, the language:

- clarifies when DSS may release information to the public about cases in which DSS' investigation found that child abuse or neglect more likely than not occurred ("indicated" cases), and in cases that are under investigation;
- adds authority for DSS to release information to the public about cases in which DSS' investigation found that child abuse or neglect, more likely than not, did not occur ("unfounded" cases);
- permits DSS to disclose information from child abuse and neglect cases to committees and subcommittees of the General Assembly in closed, confidential sessions. This codifies the authority of committees and subcommittees to receive information about child abuse and neglect cases regardless whether the case was indicated or unfounded, or is under investigation; and
- codifies authority for DSS to implement requirements in federal law, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, related to public disclosure of information about child fatalities and near-fatalities that occurred because of child abuse and neglect.

Overall, the legislation will give DSS the ability to confirm, clarify, and correct information that has been made public. Senator Young plans to include language regarding coroners as well. Please confirm that you have received this e-mail and I would be happy to address any questions that you may have about the language.

Thank you,
Haley

Haley Mottel
Legislative Liaison
Office of Governor Nikki R. Haley
Office: (803) 734-0082
Mobile: (803) 240-1512
HaleyMottel@gov.sc.gov