

RESOLUTION NO. 478 -2020, ADOPTING LOCAL LAW NO. 29-2020, A LOCAL LAW REQUIRING INCREASED SCRUTINY FOR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES REPORTS RECEIVED FROM CERTAIN SCHOOLS OFFICIALS ("Part Three of the CPS Transformation Act")

WHEREAS, there was duly presented and introduced to this County Legislature at a meeting held on March 17, 2020, a proposed local law entitled, "**A LOCAL LAW REQUIRING INCREASED SCRUTINY FOR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES REPORTS RECEIVED FROM CERTAIN SCHOOLS OFFICIALS ("Part Three of the CPS Transformation Act")**"; and said local law in final form is the same as when presented and introduced; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the said local law be enacted in form as follows:

LOCAL LAW NO. 29-2020, SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK

A LOCAL LAW REQUIRING INCREASED SCRUTINY FOR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES REPORTS RECEIVED FROM CERTAIN SCHOOLS OFFICIALS ("Part Three of the CPS Transformation Act")

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK, as follows:

Section 1. Legislative Intent.

This Legislature hereby finds and determines that as New York State Mandated Reporters school officials must notify the State Central Registry (SCR) if they suspect child abuse, neglect and/or maltreatment and must complete State-provided Mandated Reporter training.

This Legislature further finds and determines that the current Mandated Reporter training provided by New York State is widely considered to be insufficient and ineffective by those in the field and must be reviewed and overhauled in order to properly equip school officials and all Mandated Reporters to convey suspected child abuse, neglect and/or maltreatment with efficacy.

This Legislature further finds and determines that there are certain school officials, including but not limited to school psychologists, school social workers and Registered Professional Nurses, whose education and/or training makes them specially qualified to suspect abnormalities in a child's behavior, needs and/or physical condition particularly effectively.

This Legislature further finds and determines that when multiple Child Protective Services reports are received from certain school officials they should be escalated to a review by a Casework Supervisor.

Therefore, the purpose of this local law is to institute increased scrutiny for CPS reports received from certain school officials.

Section 2. Amendments.

Article X of the SUFFOLK COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE is hereby amended as follows:

**Article X.
Department of Social Services**

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§ A10-4. Procedures for Certain Child Protective Services Reports

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D. Reports Received from School Officials

- (1) When Child Protective Services is in receipt of three (3) or more reports related to one case from school officials who are New York State Certified School Psychologists, New York State Licensed Master Social Workers or Registered Professional Nurses the case must be immediately reviewed by a Casework Supervisor.**
- (2) Upon conclusion of the review, the Casework Supervisor and the Caseworker shall determine the management plan for said case.**

E. Reports Received from School Officials Related to Cases Referred to CPS Special Needs Unit

- (3) When Child Protective Services is in receipt of three (3) or more reports related to one case from school officials who are New York State Certified School Psychologists, New York State Licensed Master Social Workers or Registered Professional Nurses, and the case has been referred to the CPS Special Needs Unit as per § A10-4(A) of this Article, the case must be immediately reviewed by a Casework Supervisor if the school official submitting the report(s) has completed Children with Development Disabilities training as described in § A10-5(D) of this Article.**
- (4) Upon conclusion of the review, the Casework Supervisor and the Caseworker shall determine the management plan for said case.**

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Section 3. Applicability.

This law shall apply to all reports received from school officials by Child Protective Services on or after the effective date of this law.

Section 4. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this law or the application thereof to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this law, or in its application to the person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such order or judgment shall be rendered.

Section 5. SEQRA Determination.

This Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this law constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(26), and/or (33) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection. The Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this law.

Section 6. Effective Date.

This law shall take effect immediately upon its filing with the Secretary of State.

[] Brackets denote deletion of language.
___ Underlining denotes addition of new language.

DATED: June 23, 2020

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: July 9, 2020

After a public hearing duly held on July 6, 2020
Filed with the Secretary of State on July 23, 2020