

## HOUSE BILL No. 1318

---

### DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 31-33-8-3.

**Synopsis:** Physical examinations in CHINS investigations. Provides that if the department of child services (department) receives a report of known or suspected abuse of a child who is less than five years of age, a department caseworker: (1) shall physically examine the child's head, face, arms, legs, chest, and back for bruises or contusions; and (2) if the caseworker finds evidence of abuse, shall: (A) immediately take the child into custody; (B) cause color photographs to be taken of the areas of trauma visible on the child, unless a law enforcement agency is obligated to do so; (C) cause a medical examination of the child to be performed; and (D) if medically indicated, cause a radiological examination of the child to be performed. Provides that if the department receives a report of known or suspected abuse of a child who is not less than five years of age, the department may have a: (1) health screening; or (2) medical examination; of the child conducted. Provides that the department is responsible for the cost of the health screening or medical examination.

**Effective:** July 1, 2026.

---

---

**Jackson C**

---

---

January 6, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Family, Children and Human Affairs.

---

---



Introduced

Second Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2026)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

## HOUSE BILL No. 1318

---

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning family law and juvenile law.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1 SECTION 1. IC 31-33-8-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.131-2009,  
2 SECTION 44, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) **Except as provided in subsection (b), If a**  
4 **child who is the subject of a report under this chapter is less than**  
5 **five (5) years of age, a department caseworker:**  
6     (1) **shall physically examine the child's head, face, arms, legs,**  
7     **chest, and back for bruises or contusions; and**  
8     (2) **if the caseworker finds evidence of abuse under**  
9     **subdivision (1), shall:**  
10       (A) **immediately take the child into custody under**  
11       **IC 31-34-2-3;**  
12       (B) **except as provided in subsection (c), cause color**  
13       **photographs to be taken of the areas of trauma visible on**  
14       **the child;**  
15       (C) **cause a medical examination of the child to be**  
16       **performed; and**  
17       (D) **if medically indicated, cause a radiological examination**



of the child to be performed.

**(b) If a child who is the subject of a report under this chapter is not less than five (5) years of age, the department:**

**(1) shall, (1) except as provided in subsection (c), cause color photographs to be taken of the areas of trauma visible on a the child; who is subject to a report;**

(2) may cause a:

(A) health screening; or

**(B) medical examination**

**of the child to be performed; and**

(2) (3) if medically indicated, shall cause a radiological examination of the child to be performed.

(b) (c) If the law enforcement agency participates in the assessment, the law enforcement agency shall cause the color photographs to be taken as provided by this section.

(e) (d) The department shall reimburse the expenses of: the

**(1) photographs under subsection (a)(2)(B) or (b)(1);**

(2) a health screening or medical examination under subsection (a)(2)(C) or (b)(2); and

**(3) x-rays under subsection (a)(2)(D) or (b)(3).**

