



**Colorado Department of Human Services**

*people who help people*

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## HB09-1306

**Title: Concerning the Protection of Youth in Juvenile Facilities in the Department of Human Services.**  
**Sponsors: Rep. Nikkel, Sen. Renfroe**

**To: Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services**

**Introduction:** The Department of Human Services shares and supports the goal of the sponsors of HB09-1306 – the protection from abuse and neglect of youth who are in the custody of the Division of Youth Corrections. Existing state statutes are very explicit on the requirements for reporting and investigating suspected abuse or neglect, including abuse or neglect that may involve a “third party” such as an employee of the Division of Youth Corrections. In addition to extensive internal policies and procedures, and initial and ongoing staff training, reports of any incidence of suspected abuse or neglect are required to be made to, and investigations conducted by, county departments of social services and/or local law enforcement. The Department complies with these requirements and procedures. The Department also recognizes that improvements should be continuously made, best practices implemented, and any lapse in employee performance be dealt with promptly. The Department also takes seriously its responsibility for the safety of the public and of its employees.

**Comparison Chart Outlining HB09-1306 and Current Law and Practice:** A “side by side” chart is attached to assist members of the House HHS Committee in its review of the provisions of HB09-1306 in relation to existing law and practice. The chart is organized in order of the bill, and includes the citation from HB09-1306, the proposed requirements from that bill related to specific areas of responsibility, citations from current law related to that same topic area, and comments on each area from the Department’s perspective.

**Concern about HB09-1306:** While supporting what the Department understands to be the goal of the sponsors, namely improved protection of youth in the custody of the Division of Youth Corrections, the Department is concerned that several provisions of the bill will result in duplication of effort at both the state and local levels, and confusion of roles and responsibilities with the requirements of current law and practice. The unintended consequence may not result in improved protection of youth.

Prepared by the Department of Human Services March 18, 2009