

Amend **CSSB 6** in Article 1 of the bill, by adding the following appropriately numbered SECTIONS and renumbering subsequent SECTIONS in that article accordingly:

SECTION \_\_. Section 261.302(e), Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

(e) An interview with a child conducted by the department during the investigation stage shall be audiotaped or videotaped. An interview with a child alleged to be a victim of physical abuse or sexual abuse conducted by an investigating agency other than the department shall be audiotaped or videotaped unless the investigating agency determines that good cause exists for not audiotaping or videotaping the interview in accordance with rules of the agency. Good cause may include, but is not limited to, such considerations as the age of the child and the nature and seriousness of the allegations under investigation. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as prohibiting the investigating agency from audiotaping or videotaping an interview of a child on any case for which such audiotaping or videotaping is not required under this subsection. The fact that the investigating agency failed to audiotape or videotape an interview is admissible at the trial of the offense that is the subject of the interview.

SECTION \_\_. Sections 261.310(a) and (d), Family Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The department shall by rule develop and adopt [~~voluntary~~] standards for persons who investigate suspected child abuse or neglect at the state or local level. The standards shall encourage professionalism and consistency in the investigation of suspected child abuse or neglect.

(d) The standards shall [~~recommend~~]:

(1) recommend that videotaped and audiotaped interviews [~~with a suspected victim~~] be uninterrupted;

(2) recommend a maximum number of interviews with and examinations of a suspected victim;

(3) provide procedures to preserve evidence, including the original recordings of the intake telephone calls, original notes, videotapes, and audiotapes, for one year; and

(4) provide that an investigator of suspected child

abuse or neglect make a reasonable effort to locate and inform each parent of a child of any report of abuse or neglect relating to the child.