

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0235

Child protection-case planning.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Mercer, Buchanan, Cohee,  
Hallinan, Landon and Meyer and Senator(s)  
Decaria, Ross and Sessions

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to child protection; specifying new duties  
2 of a multidisciplinary team in child protection cases;  
3 requiring case planning focused on returning the child to  
4 the home or closing a child abuse or neglect case;  
5 specifying applicability of the act; and providing for an  
6 effective date.

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8 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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10 **Section 1.** W.S. 14-3-427(e) and (f),  
11 14-3-429(d)(iii), 14-6-227(e) and (f) and 14-6-427(e) and  
12 (f) are amended to read:

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14 **14-3-427. Predisposition studies and reports.**

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1           (e) Before the first multidisciplinary team meeting,  
2 the department of family services shall provide each member  
3 of the multidisciplinary team with a brief summary of the  
4 case detailing the allegations in the petition that have  
5 been adjudicated, if any. The multidisciplinary team shall  
6 review the child's personal and family history, school  
7 records, mental health records and department of family  
8 services records and any other pertinent information, for  
9 the purpose of making case planning recommendations. To  
10 the extent appropriate, the team shall involve the child in  
11 the development of the recommendations.

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13           (f) At the first multidisciplinary team meeting, the  
14 team shall formulate reasonable and attainable  
15 recommendations for the court outlining the goals or  
16 objectives the parents should be required to meet for the  
17 child to be returned to the home or for the case to be  
18 closed, or until ordered by the court in termination  
19 proceedings. At each subsequent meeting, the  
20 multidisciplinary team shall review the progress of the  
21 parents and the child, and shall reevaluate the plan  
22 ordered by the court. For cause, which shall be set forth  
23 with specificity, the multidisciplinary team may adjust its  
24 recommendations to the court with respect to the goals or

1 objectives in the plan to effect the return of the child to  
2 the home or to close the case. In formulating  
3 recommendations, the multidisciplinary team shall give  
4 consideration to the best interest of the child, the best  
5 interest of the family, the most appropriate and least  
6 restrictive case planning options available as well as  
7 costs of care. After each multidisciplinary team meeting,  
8 the coordinator shall prepare for submission to each member  
9 of the team and to the court a summary of the  
10 multidisciplinary team meeting specifically describing the  
11 recommendations for the court and the goals and objectives  
12 which should be met to return the child to the home or to  
13 close the case. If the recommendations for the case plan  
14 have been changed, the summary shall include a detailed  
15 explanation of the change in the recommendations and the  
16 reasons for the change.

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18 **14-3-429. Decree where child adjudged neglected;**  
19 **dispositions; terms and conditions; legal custody.**

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21 (d) As a part of any order of disposition and the  
22 terms and conditions thereof, the court may:

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1           (iii) Require the child's parents or guardian to  
2 attend a parenting class or other appropriate education or  
3 treatment designed to address problems which contributed to  
4 the adjudication and to pay all or part of the cost of the  
5 class, education or treatment in accordance with the  
6 court's determination of their ability to pay.

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8           **14-6-227. Predisposition studies and reports.**

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10          (e) Before the first multidisciplinary team meeting,  
11 the department of family services shall provide each member  
12 of the multidisciplinary team with a brief summary of the  
13 case detailing the allegations in the petition that have  
14 been adjudicated, if any. The multidisciplinary team shall,  
15 as quickly as reasonably possible, review the child's  
16 personal and family history, school, mental health and  
17 department of family services records and any other  
18 pertinent information, for the purpose of making sanction  
19 recommendations. The team shall involve the child in the  
20 development of recommendations to the extent appropriate.

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22          (f) At the first multidisciplinary team meeting, the  
23 team shall formulate reasonable and attainable  
24 recommendations for the court outlining the goals or

1 objectives the parents should be required to meet for the  
2 child to be returned to the home or for the case to be  
3 closed, or until ordered by the court in termination  
4 proceedings. At each subsequent meeting, the  
5 multidisciplinary team shall review the progress of the  
6 parents and the child, and shall reevaluate the plan  
7 ordered by the court. For cause, which shall be set forth  
8 with specificity, the multidisciplinary team may adjust its  
9 recommendations to the court with respect to the goals or  
10 objectives in the plan to effect the return of the child to  
11 the home or to close the case, or until ordered by the  
12 court in termination proceedings. The multidisciplinary  
13 team shall formulate written recommendations consistent  
14 with the purposes of this act. After each multidisciplinary  
15 team meeting, the coordinator shall prepare for submission  
16 to each member of the team and to the court a summary of  
17 the multidisciplinary team meeting specifically describing  
18 the recommendations for the court and the goals and  
19 objectives which should be met to return the child to the  
20 home or to close the case, or until ordered by the court in  
21 termination proceedings. If the recommendations for the  
22 case plan have been changed, the summary shall include a  
23 detailed explanation of the change in the recommendations  
24 and the reasons for the change.

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**14-6-427. Predisposition studies and reports.**

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(e) Before the first multidisciplinary team meeting, the department of family services shall provide each member of the multidisciplinary team with a brief summary of the case detailing the allegations in the petition that have been adjudicated, if any. The multidisciplinary team shall, as quickly as reasonably possible, review the child's personal and family history, school, mental health and department of family services records and any other pertinent information, for the purpose of making case planning recommendations. The team shall involve the child in the development of recommendations to the extent appropriate.

(f) At the first multidisciplinary team meeting, the team shall formulate reasonable and attainable recommendations for the court outlining the goals or objectives the parents should be required to meet for the child to be returned to the home or for the case to be closed. At each subsequent meeting, the multidisciplinary team shall review the progress of the parents and the child, and shall reevaluate the plan ordered by the court.

1 For cause, which shall be set forth with specificity, the  
2 multidisciplinary team may adjust its recommendations to  
3 the court with respect to the goals or objectives in the  
4 plan to effect the return of the child to the home or to  
5 close the case, or until ordered by the court in  
6 termination proceedings. In formulating recommendations,  
7 the multidisciplinary team shall give consideration to the  
8 best interest of the child, the best interest of the  
9 family, the most appropriate and least restrictive case  
10 planning options available as well as costs of care. After  
11 each multidisciplinary team meeting, the coordinator shall  
12 prepare for submission to each member of the team and to  
13 the court a summary of the multidisciplinary team meeting  
14 specifically describing the recommendations for the court  
15 and the goals and objectives which should be met to return  
16 the child to the home or to close the case, or until  
17 ordered by the court in termination proceedings. If the  
18 recommendations for the case plan have been changed, the  
19 summary shall include a detailed explanation of the change  
20 in the recommendations and the reasons for the change.

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22 **Section 2.** The provisions of W.S. 14-3-427(e) and  
23 (f), 14-3-429(d), 14-6-227(e) and (f) and 14-6-427(e) and  
24 (f) as amended by section 1 of this act, shall apply to

1 child protection cases in which a petition was filed under  
2 W.S. 14-3-412, 14-6-212 or 14-6-412 on or after July 1,  
3 2009.

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5 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2009.

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