

Initiative Petition

State of Nevada **FILE**
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AUG 04 2006

The people of the state of Nevada do enact as follows:

DEAN HELLER
SECRETARY OF STATE

SECTION 1 This statutory initiative shall be known as Hannah's Law.

SEC. 2 All agencies involved in a child abuse report must establish a multi-disciplinary team approach to the investigation and subsequent prosecution, if the prosecutors determine that is appropriate.

SEC. 3 Each law enforcement agency in the state of Nevada will employ both male and female detectives who are specially trained in the investigation of child abuse cases, particularly those cases of suspected sexual abuse. If an agency does not have detectives of both sexes available for interviews, they will have a secondary plan in place to borrow a detective from a nearby agency who will be able to perform the interview and prepare a supplemental report in a timely fashion.

SEC. 4 Law enforcement officers must be aware and provide referrals to resources within their community (therapy, victim compensation, etc.) and provide this information to the child's family upon receiving a referral.

SEC. 5 All agencies shall establish written protocol for use in all child abuse investigations, including timely interrogation of alleged offender, interviews with all professionals involved with the child or alleged offender as quickly as possible, interviews of other people who may have information to offer to law enforcement, and reasonable lengths of time for an investigation to be completed.

SEC. 6 Law enforcement agencies shall be given the authority to make an arrest, if probable cause exists, to interrogate alleged offender, prior to and independent of decisions made by prosecuting attorneys.

SEC. 7 Law enforcement agencies shall follow guidelines as set forth in the Portable Guides to Investigating Child Abuse, published by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

SEC. 8 Any agency who is unable to abide by the protocol set forth pursuant to Section 5 of Hannah's Law will enlist the powers of the Investigation Division of the Department of Public Safety, pursuant to NRS 480.400 through 480.520 inclusive.

Description of Effect

Hannah's Law will serve to protect all of Nevada's children. Nevada has had a very poor grade on the Megan's Law report card for the last two years, but has made great improvements on making tougher sexual predator laws. The missing link is standardized investigative procedures for child abuse cases, and more specifically sexual abuse, reports. By enacting Hannah's Law our law enforcement agencies will be given the authority and guidelines for conducting effective investigations in these cases, and will concurrently increase the agencies accountability to the public. The effect of this initiative would be that local law enforcement standards would be brought into line with recommendations already issued by the United States Department of Justice.

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County of _____ (Only registered voters of this county may sign below.)

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