

# 2016 Amendments to the Child Protective Services Law



**Effective:** Immediately

## **Brief Summary:**

There are four sections to Act 115. Section one addresses grounds for involuntary parental termination. Section two amends the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) by adding language to the definitions of perpetrator and child abuse. Section three addresses the release of information to law enforcement in confidential reports. Section four amends the definition of aggravated circumstances. This fact sheet focuses on the second section of the act, amendments to the CPSL.

## **Highlights:**

- Added to the definition of “perpetrator” under the CPSL: “An individual 18 years of age or older who engages a child in severe forms of trafficking in persons or sex trafficking.”

- Added a tenth category to the definition of “child abuse” under the CPSL: “Intentionally, knowingly or recklessly engaging a child in a severe form of trafficking in persons or sex trafficking.”

**How this impacts advocates:** Advocates will continue to report all child abuse or neglect and will make a report regardless of the relationship of the abuser to the child.

**How this impacts survivors:** If a report of abuse is made and it falls under these new definitions of perpetrator and child abuse, a child and family will have the services and support of the county children and youth agency (previously this report may have been a law enforcement only report).

## **For more information:**

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/li/uconsCheck.cfm?yr=2016&sessInd=0&act=115>



PENNSYLVANIA COALITION AGAINST RAPE

717-728-9740 • 800-692-7445 • TTY 877-585-1091 • pcar.org