

HOUSE BILL 1505

By DeBerry J

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37,
Chapter 5, relative to the release of records by the
department of children's services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-5-107(c)(4), is amended by redesignating the current language as subdivision (c)(4)(A) and by adding the following new subdivisions:

(B) At a minimum, the department shall immediately release the following information for any child fatality where the child was the subject of an ongoing investigation or where an initial investigation indicates a death may have resulted from child abuse or neglect:

- (i) The child's age;
- (ii) The child's gender;
- (iii) The history of the department's involvement with the child's family;

and

(iv) A brief summary of the known circumstances surrounding the child's death.

(C) At the conclusion of the department's investigation of any child fatality where the child was the subject of an ongoing investigation or where an initial investigation indicates the death may have resulted from child abuse or neglect, the department shall release a full report indicating whether abuse or neglect was found. If abuse or neglect was found, the report shall indicate any action taken by the department or the district

attorney general. The report may be redacted to comply with the confidentiality requirements of this section.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014, the public welfare requiring it.