

The mission of Safe Passage for Children is to rebuild the Minnesota child welfare system so children are safe and reach their full potential.

## Safe Passage for Children of Minnesota

## **Summary of SF 3692**

## Senate File (SF) 3692 (Chief Author Rosen, Co-authors Miller, Bigham, Utke, Johnson)

This bill implements four child safety provisions strongly recommended by the 2015 Governor's Child Protection Task Force:

- 1. Interview children separately from and prior to adults during initial Family Assessment visit, other than in exceptional circumstances. (*The federal courts have already required this practice change as part of a 2019 Hennepin County class action lawsuit settlement.*)
- 2. Don't give parents or household adults advance notice of a child protection visit.
- 3. Equity and Safety Related: Train child protection workers in fact-finding and do this before assigning cases to the investigative or Family Assessment track.
- 4. In Family Assessment cases, put information in case notes so future workers know what happened if the case is reported again.

The bill includes an additional item from the Hennepin County settlement:

5. Interview foster children over 4 years old separately from foster parents

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