

Chap. 130. AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE DATE FOR HOLDING PRELIMINARY ELECTIONS IN THE CITY OF NORTH ADAMS.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Notwithstanding the provisions of section forty-four A of chapter forty-three of the General Laws, preliminary elections in the city of North Adams shall be held on the sixth Tuesday preceding every regular or special city election.

Approved May 5, 1978

Chap. 131. AN ACT PROVIDING A TIME LIMIT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE WHEN INVESTIGATING AND EVALUATING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTS AND PROVIDING THAT SUCH REPORTS BE IN WRITING.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Section 51B of chapter 119 of the General Laws, inserted by section 5 of chapter 1076 of the acts of 1973, is hereby amended by striking out clauses (1), (2) and (3) and inserting in place thereof the following three clauses:-

(1) investigate and evaluate the information reported under section fifty-one A. Said investigation and evaluation shall be made within twenty-four hours if the department has reasonable cause to believe the child's health or safety is in immediate danger from further abuse or neglect and within seven days for all other such reports. The investigation shall include a home visit at which the child is viewed, if appropriate, a determination of the nature, extent and cause or causes of the injuries, the identity of the person or persons responsible therefor, the name, age and condition of other children in the same household, an evaluation of the parents and the home environment, and all other pertinent facts or matters. Such determinations and evaluations shall be in writing;

(2) evaluate the household of the child named in the report and make a written determination of the risk of physical or emotional injury to any other children in the same household;

(3) take a child into immediate temporary custody if the department has reasonable cause to believe that the removal of the child is necessary to protect him from further abuse or neglect; provided, however, that the department shall make a written report stating the reasons for such removal; and provided further, that if any child is so taken into custody, the department must file a petition pursuant to section twenty-four on the next court day;.

Approved May 5, 1978

Chap. 132. AN ACT FURTHER DEFINING AUTOMOBILE CLUB SERVICE CONTRACT.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 113P the following section:-