

**Subject** Vulnerable adult maltreatment reporting

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## Overview

This bill makes various clarifying changes and updates to the sections of statute governing the reporting of maltreatment of vulnerable adults, including changes to investigation processes and notifications, and changes to definitions.

## Summary

| Section | Description |
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| 1 | <b>Reporting.</b><br>Amends § 626.557, subd. 4. Removes language regarding reports to the common entry point.   |
| 2 | <b>Common entry point designation.</b><br>Amends § 626.557, subd. 9. Removes obsolete language regarding the establishment and designation of a common entry point. Clarifies and adds to information required for the common entry point standard intake form. Removes language requiring the common entry point to immediately identify and locate prior maltreatment reports.  |
| 3 | <b>Response to reports.</b><br>Amends § 626.557, subd. 9b. Specifies that when a county is the lead investigative agency, the county must make guidelines publicly available about which reports the county prioritizes for investigation and adult protective services.  |
| 4 | <b>Lead investigative agency; notifications, dispositions, determinations.</b><br>Amends § 626.557, subd. 9c. Adds paragraph (b), which specifies that the lead investigative agency, in making an initial disposition of a maltreatment report, may consider previous maltreatment reports, public information, certain records, and information from any person who may have knowledge of the alleged maltreatment.<br><br>Adds paragraph (c), requiring the lead investigative agency to inform specified individuals of all reports accepted for investigation; lists information that must be shared; provides exceptions. |

| <b>Section</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
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|                | <p>Adds paragraph (d), specifying that the county agency may offer assistance when the agency does not accept a report for adult protective services or investigation.</p> <p>Adds paragraph (e), allowing the county to coordinate and share data with Tribes and case management agencies, as allowed under chapter 13. Specifies that the identity of a reporter must not be disclosed except as authorized under statute.</p> <p>Adds paragraph (f), requiring the lead investigative agency to coordinate with specified entities while investigating and providing protective services; allows coordination with support persons.</p> <p>Specifies that when DHS is the lead investigative agency, it must provide a copy of the public investigation memorandum within ten calendar days of completing the final disposition, to specified persons.</p> <p>Adds paragraph (l), which specifies that when the county is the lead investigative agency, it must provide notification of the final disposition within ten calendar days, to specified persons.</p> |
| <b>5</b>       | <p><b>Administrative reconsideration; review panel.</b></p> <p>Amends § 626.557, subd. 9d. Specifies that the Vulnerable Adult Maltreatment Review Panel must not conduct a review of a final disposition if the interested person making the request on behalf of the vulnerable adult is also the individual or facility alleged responsible for the maltreatment of the vulnerable adult.</p>   |
| <b>6</b>       | <p><b>Duties of county social service agency.</b></p> <p>Amends § 626.557, subd. 10. Makes clarifying changes; adds requirements in paragraphs (b), (c), (d), and (e) for county social service agency investigations and final dispositions.</p>  |
| <b>7</b>       | <p><b>Investigations; guidelines.</b></p> <p>Amends § 626.557, subd. 10b. Makes clarifying terminology changes; adds paragraph (c) listing activities the lead investigative agency must conduct as appropriate to further an investigation, prevent further maltreatment, or safeguard the vulnerable adult.</p> <p>Adds paragraph (d) specifying circumstances under which the lead investigative agency may decide not to interview a vulnerable adult, reporter, or witness.</p>   |
| <b>8</b>       | <p><b>Data management.</b></p> <p>Amends § 626.557, subd. 12b. Makes clarifying changes; clarifies that investigative data are confidential data on individuals or protected nonpublic data as defined</p>   |

| <b>Section</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
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|                | under section 13.02. Clarifies that the name of the reporter is confidential. Specifies exceptions to data sharing limitations.  |
| 9              | <b>Establishment of team.</b><br>Amends § 626.5571, subd. 1. Adds “any other organization with relevant expertise” to list of groups who may serve on a multidisciplinary adult protection team. |
| 10             | <b>Duties of team.</b><br>Amends § 626.5571, subd. 1. Makes clarifying changes.  |
| 11             | <b>Abuse.</b><br>Amends § 626.5572, subd. 2. Modifies language regarding the use of aversive or deprivation procedures in the definition of “abuse.”   |
| 12             | <b>Caregiver.</b><br>Amends § 626.5572, subd. 4. Modifies the definition of “caregiver.”   |
| 13             | <b>Neglect.</b><br>Amends § 626.5572, subd. 17. Modifies definition of “neglect” and defines “caregiver neglect” and “self-neglect.”   |



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