

AN ACT relating to child abuse and neglect.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

□SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 199 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Abused or neglected child" has the same meaning as in KRS 600.020; and

(b) "Central registry" means the registry for child abuse and neglect established in subsection (2) of this section.

(2) The cabinet shall, by July 1, 2017, establish and operate the central registry for child abuse and neglect. The central registry shall include the name, age, last known city of residence, a photograph if available, a description of the substantiated finding of abuse or neglect, and any other identifying information determined necessary by the cabinet, of each individual:

(a) Who has been found by the cabinet to have abused or neglected a child; and

(b) 1. Who waived the right to appeal a substantiated finding of child abuse or neglect in accordance with Kentucky law or administrative regulations; or

2. Whose substantiated incident was upheld upon appeal.

(3) The cabinet shall publish the central registry on its Web site and it shall be searchable and available to the public.

(4) The cabinet shall update the central registry every thirty (30) days.

(5) The cabinet shall ensure that the following statement is displayed on the cabinet Web site where the central registry is published: "Based on information submitted to the cabinet, an individual whose name appears on the central registry has been found by the cabinet to have abused or neglected a child. However, information on the central registry may not be complete."

(6) The cabinet shall promulgate administrative regulations to establish and operate

*the central registry including but not limited to policies and procedures:*

*(a) For compiling, publishing, and maintaining the information required in subsection (2) of this section;*

*(b) For how long an individual shall remain on the central registry;*

*(c) For how an individual may be removed from the central registry; and*

*(d) To ensure compliance with all other state and federal laws.*

Section 2. This Act shall be cited as Sophie's Law.