
DIGEST

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Hazel

HB No. 1073

Abstract: Authorizes the recording of statements of protected persons outside of the courtroom without the necessity of a court order by either local court rule or execution of a written protocol between the court and several agencies.

Present law authorizes the court, on its own motion or on motion of the district attorney, a parish welfare unit or agency, or the Dept. of Children and Family Services, to require that a statement of a protected person be recorded on videotape.

Present law defines "protected person" as any person who is a victim of a crime or a witness in a criminal proceeding and who is either under the age of 17 years or has a developmental disability as defined in present law.

Proposed law retains present law and authorizes the recording of statements of protected persons outside of the courtroom without the necessity of the issuance of an order by the court in any individual case either by local court rule or by the execution of a written protocol between the court and law enforcement agencies, a parish welfare unit or agency, DCFS, or a Child Advocacy Center or Child Advocacy Program operating in the judicial district.

(Amends R.S. 15:440.2(A)(1))