DIGEST

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Norton HB No. 465

Abstract: Provides for supervised visitation during child abuse investigations.

Present law provides procedures for reports of child abuse or neglect for children not in the custody of the state, which includes an assessment of the level of risk and an investigation into the nature, extent, and cause of the abuse, and a determination of the person responsible for the abuse.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 136) provides that parents are entitled to reasonable visitation rights unless the court finds, after a hearing, that visitation would not be in the best interest of the child.

Present law (R.S. 9:341) provides that whenever the court finds that a parent has abused the child, the court shall prohibit visitation between the abusive parent and the abused child until such parent proves that visitation would not cause physical, emotional, or psychological damage to the child.

Proposed law requires that visitations shall be supervised until the investigation has been completed to determine if the parent or caretaker has abused the child.

(Amends Ch.C. Art. 612(A)(2))