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**INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION**  
333 MARKET STREET, 14TH FLOOR, HARRISBURG, PA 17101

May 6, 1999

Honorable Feather O. Houstoun, Secretary  
Department of Public Welfare  
333 Health & Welfare Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Re: IRRC Regulation #14-441 (#1928)  
Department of Public Welfare  
Protective Services

Dear Secretary Houstoun:

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission approved the subject regulation at its May 6, 1999 public meeting. Our Order is enclosed and is available on our website at <http://www.irrc.state.pa.us>.

We appreciate the joint effort that went into producing a regulation that met the criteria and intent of the Regulatory Review Act.

Sincerely,

  
Alvin C. Bush  
Vice Chairman

ACB:kcg  
Enclosure  
cc: Joseph L. Spear  
Lee W. Miller  
Thomas Vracarich

**INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION**

14th Floor, 333 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Commissioners Present:

Public Meeting Held May 6, 1999

John R. McGinley, Jr., Chairman  
Alvin C. Bush, Vice Chairman  
Arthur Coccodrilli  
Robert J. Harbison, III

Department of Public Welfare  
Protective Services

Regulation No. 14-441

**BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION**


On February 10, 1998, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (Commission) received this proposed regulation from the Department of Public Welfare (DPW). This rulemaking amends 55 Pa. Code Chapter 3490. The authority for this regulation is 23 Pa. C.S. §§ 6301 to 6385. The proposed regulation was published in the February 21, 1998 *Pennsylvania Bulletin* with a 30-day public comment period. The final-form regulation was submitted to the Commission on February 18, 1999, but withdrawn prior to Commission action. A revised final-form regulation was resubmitted to the Commission on April 14, 1999.

DPW is making major revisions to 55 Pa. Code Chapter 3490 (Protective Services). In 1994, the General Assembly enacted Act 151 which addressed reporting of suspected child abuse. Changes to the statute which are incorporated in this rulemaking include additional requirements for mandated reporters, abuse of students in school, general protective services, reports to Childline, and responsibilities of the County Agency.

We have reviewed this regulation and find it to be in the public interest. Implementation of Act 151 of 1994 through this regulation will further assure the safety of children. In addition to the comprehensive reporting requirements and investigation of suspected abuse of students, the regulation provides for training and certification of county children and youth agency staff who provide protective services to children.

**THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

1. Regulation No. 14-441 from the Department of Public Welfare, as submitted to the Commission on April 14, 1999, is approved; and
2. The Commission will transmit a copy of this Order to the Legislative Reference Bureau.

  
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Alvin C. Bush, Vice Chairman

