



## Legislative Council Staff

*Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature*

# Fiscal Note

**Drafting Number:** LLS 22-0225  
**Prime Sponsors:** Rep. Tipper

**Date:** February 15, 2022  
**Bill Status:** House HHS  
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**Bill Topic:** ESTABLISHING FAMILY JUSTICE CENTERS

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue                | <input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer               | <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity     |

The bill allows local governments and nonprofit organizations to establish family justice centers to help certain victims access a range of services in one location. The bill may increase state and local expenditures on an ongoing basis.

**Appropriation Summary:** No appropriation is required.

**Fiscal Note Status:** The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

## Summary of Legislation

The bill allows a city, county, city and county, or a community based non-profit organization to establish multiagency and multidisciplinary family justice centers to serve victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, elder or dependent care abuse and human trafficking. Victims are not required to participate in the criminal justice system or cooperate with law enforcement in order to receive services. To operate, family justice centers must:

- consult with community based agencies in partnership with survivors of violence and abuse in the center's operations process;
- establish procedures for ongoing input, feedback and evaluation from victims, service providers and advocates;
- develop policies and procedures with victims and service providers to ensure safety and coordination of services;
- maintain a formal client feedback, complaint and input process;
- maintain a client consent policy and comply with all state and federal privacy protection laws; and
- have a designated privacy officer to develop and oversee privacy policies and procedures.

Family justice centers must obtain consent from victims seeking their services before sharing information provided by the victim, except that consent is not required if the information is provided to a mandatory reporter who is required to disclose such information, or if disclosure is otherwise required by state or federal law or by court order. Family justice center staff must inform victims that their information may be shared if there is a mandatory duty to report, or if the victim is a danger to themselves or others.

## State Expenditures

Starting in FY 2022-23, the bill may increase expenditures in the Judicial Department and the Department of Public Safety from additional trial court and police report filings, respectively. The amount of increased costs will depend on the number of new family justice centers that are created as a result of this bill, and the related increase in referrals and requests for legal and criminal legal assistance on behalf of victims. The fiscal note estimates that the initial impact of these activities will be minimal and absorbable within existing appropriations. Any increase in resources will be requested through the annual budget process.

## Local Government

The bill increases expenditures for local governments that choose to participate in a family justice center. Associated costs will vary depending on the level of engagement and services provided by each participating local government.

## Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

## State and Local Government Contacts

Counties  
Health Care Policy and Financing  
Information Technology  
Law  
Municipalities  
Public Safety

District Attorneys  
Human Services  
Judicial  
Local Affairs  
Public Health and Environment  
Sheriffs