

1 **State of Arkansas**  
2 **78th General Assembly**  
3 **Regular Session, 1991**  
4 **By: Senator Steve Bell**

# A Bill

**SENATE BILL**

## **For An Act To Be Entitled**

8 "AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE ANNOTATED §12-12-507(a) (3)  
9 TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO NOTIFY  
10 MANDATED REPORTERS OF SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF  
11 THEIR ACTIONS OR INTENDED ACTIONS; AND FOR OTHER  
12 PURPOSES."

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14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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16 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Annotated §12-12-507(a) (3) is amended to read  
17 as follows:

18 "(3) The investigation of each report of suspected abuse or neglect  
19 shall begin within seventy-two (72) hours or within twenty-four (24) hours  
20 after the initial report of child abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect required by  
21 this subchapter which involves sexual abuse, or serious physical abuse  
22 involving death, bone fractures, internal injuries, head injuries, burns,  
23 immersions or suffocations, severe bruises, or abandonment, whereupon the  
24 Department of Human Services shall notify and initiate an investigation in  
25 cooperation with law enforcement agencies and the prosecuting attorney.  
26 Immediately upon undertaking an investigation of suspected abuse or neglect by  
27 the department, or within ten (10) days of receiving the report, whichever is  
28 sooner, the department shall notify the person making the report in writing of  
29 the department's actions or intended actions. If the person making the report  
30 is a teacher or school official, the department notification shall become a  
31 part of the child's confidential file maintained at the school."

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33 SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature  
34 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code  
35 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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SECTION 3. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 4. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.