

Act 824 of the 1989 Regular Session.

Act 824

HB1938

By: Representative Pollan

"AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 12-12-507 TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES SHALL INITIATE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH OTHER AGENCIES REGARDING COOPERATIVE INTERVENTION IN REPORTS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND/OR SERIOUS PHYSICAL INJURIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 12-12-507(a) is hereby amended to read as follows:

"(a) (1) Reports of child abuse, sexual abuse and neglect made pursuant to this subchapter shall be made immediately by telephone and shall be followed by a written report within forty-eight (48) hours if so requested by the receiving agency.

(2) The receiving agency shall immediately prepare and forward a written report to the statewide central registry on forms supplied by the registry within twenty-four (24) hours after the initial report except weekends and holidays.

(3) The investigation of each report of suspected abuse or neglect shall begin within seventy-two (72) hours or within twenty-four (24) hours after the initial report of child abuse, sexual abuse or neglect required by this subchapter which involves sexual abuse, or serious physical abuse involving death, bone fractures, internal injuries, head injuries, burns, immersions or suffocations, severe bruises, or abandonment, the Department of Human Services shall notify and initiate an investigation in cooperation with law enforcement agencies and the prosecuting attorney.

(4) The director of the department shall initiate formal cooperative agreements with law enforcement agencies, prosecuting attorneys and other appropriate agencies and individuals in order to implement a coordinated multi-disciplinary team approach to intervention in reports involving sexual abuse and/or serious physical injuries.

(5) The director of the department shall utilize appropriate and available state and federal funds, included but not limited to the Social Services Block Grant, Medicaid, and funded state appropriations, to develop these intervention teams and to provide comprehensive services for child victims and their families in founded cases of child abuse.

(6) The director of the department may establish, by regulation, criteria for the application of the requirements of this subchapter."

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

SECTION 3. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly that the Department of Human Services should initiate cooperative agreements as soon as possible with other agencies regarding cooperative

intervention in reports of child sexual abuse and/or serious serious physical injuries; that this Act so provides and should be given effect immediately in order to implement a coordinated multi-disciplinary team approach to intervention in reports involving such sexual abuse or physical injury. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

APPROVED: March 21, 1989

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