

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 86th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2007

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 301

4  
5 By: Senator Salmon  
6  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO IMPROVE THE ENFORCEMENT OF ADULT  
10 MALTREATMENT PROTECTION LAWS BY AMENDING THE  
11 ADULT MALTREATMENT CUSTODY ACT REGARDING THE  
12 DEFINITION OF ABUSE AND PROVISIONS REGARD  
13 EMERGENCY CUSTODY, PROBABLE CAUSE HEARINGS, AND  
14 THE AVAILABILITY OF CUSTODY AND PROTECTIVE  
15 SERVICES RECORDS; TO AMEND THE ADULT AND LONG-  
16 TERM CARE FACILITY RESIDENT MALTREATMENT ACT; AND  
17 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

18  
19 TO IMPROVE THE ENFORCEMENT OF ADULT  
20 PROTECTION LAWS BY AMENDING THE ADULT  
21 MALTREATMENT CUSTODY ACT AND THE ADULT  
22 AND LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY RESIDENT  
23 MALTREATMENT ACT.  
24  
25  
26

27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
28

29 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 9-20-103 is amended to read as follows:  
30 9-20-103. Definitions.

31 As used in this chapter:

32 (1)(A) "Abuse" means+ with regard to any long-term care facility  
33 resident or any person who is at the Arkansas State Hospital an act by a  
34 caregiver that falls into any of the following categories:

35 ~~(A)~~(i) Any intentional and unnecessary physical act  
36 that inflicts pain on or causes injury to an endangered adult or an impaired



1 adult, excluding court ordered medical care or medical care requested by an  
 2 endangered adult, an impaired adult, or a person who is legally authorized to  
 3 make a medical decision on behalf of an endangered adult or an impaired  
 4 adult;

5 ~~(B)(ii)~~ Any intentional ~~or demeaning~~ act that a  
 6 reasonable person would believe subjects an endangered adult or impaired  
 7 ~~person~~ adult, regardless of age, ability to comprehend, or disability, to  
 8 ridicule or psychological injury in a manner likely to provoke fear or  
 9 ~~alarm, excluding necessary care and treatment provided in accordance with~~  
 10 generally recognized professional standards of care;

11 ~~(C)(iii)~~ Any intentional threat that a reasonable  
 12 person would find credible and nonfrivolous to inflict pain on or cause  
 13 injury to an endangered adult or an impaired ~~person~~ adult except in the  
 14 course of medical treatment or for justifiable cause; or

15 ~~(D)(iv)~~ ~~With regard to any adult resident of a long-~~  
 16 ~~term care facility, any~~ Any willful infliction of injury, unreasonable  
 17 confinement, intimidation, or punishment with resulting physical harm, pain,  
 18 or mental anguish.

19 (B) "Abuse" means with regard to any person who is not a  
 20 long-term care facility resident or at the Arkansas State Hospital:

21 (i) Any intentional and unnecessary physical act  
 22 that inflicts pain on or causes injury to an endangered adult or an impaired  
 23 adult;

24 (ii) Any intentional or demeaning act that a  
 25 reasonable person would believe subjects an endangered adult or an impaired  
 26 adult, regardless of age, ability to comprehend, or disability, to ridicule  
 27 or psychological injury in a manner likely to provoke fear or alarm; or

28 (iii) Any intentional threat that a reasonable  
 29 person would find credible and nonfrivolous to inflict pain on or cause  
 30 injury to an endangered adult or an impaired adult except in the course of  
 31 medical treatment or for justifiable cause;

32 (2) "Adult maltreatment" means abuse, exploitation, neglect,  
 33 physical abuse, or sexual abuse of an adult;

34 (3) "Caregiver" means a related person or an unrelated person,  
 35 an owner, an agent, a high managerial agent of a public or private  
 36 organization, or a public or private organization that has the responsibility

1 for the protection, care, or custody of an endangered adult or impaired  
2 ~~person~~ adult as a result of assuming the responsibility voluntarily, by  
3 contract, through employment, or by order of the circuit court;

4 (4) "Department" means the Department of Health and Human  
5 Services;

6 (5) "Endangered adult" means:

7 (A) An adult eighteen (18) years of age or older who:

8 (i) Is found to be in a situation or condition that  
9 poses an imminent risk of death or serious bodily harm to that person; and

10 (ii) Demonstrates a lack of capacity to comprehend  
11 the nature and consequences of remaining in that situation or condition; or

12 (B) An adult resident of a long-term care facility who:

13 (i) Is found to be in a situation or condition that  
14 poses an imminent risk of death or serious bodily harm to that person; and

15 (ii) Demonstrates a lack of capacity to comprehend  
16 the nature and consequences of remaining in that situation or condition;

17 (6) "Exploitation" means:

18 (A) The illegal or unauthorized use or management of an  
19 endangered or impaired adult's funds, assets, or property or the use of an  
20 endangered or impaired adult's person, power of attorney, or guardianship for  
21 the profit or advantage of oneself or another; or

22 (B) Misappropriation of property of an adult resident of a  
23 long-term care facility, that is, the deliberate misplacement, exploitation,  
24 or wrongful, temporary, or permanent use of a resident's belongings or money  
25 without the resident's consent;

26 (7) "Imminent danger to health or safety" means a situation in  
27 which death or ~~severe bodily injury~~ serious bodily harm could reasonably be  
28 expected to occur without intervention;

29 (8)(A) "Impaired adult" means a person eighteen (18) years of  
30 age or older who, as a result of mental or physical impairment, is unable to  
31 protect himself or herself from abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or  
32 exploitation.

33 (B) For purposes of this chapter, residents of a long-term  
34 care facility are presumed to be impaired persons;

35 (9) "Long-term care facility" means:

36 (A) A nursing home;

- 1 (B) A residential care facility;
- 2 (C) A post-acute head injury retraining and residential  
3 facility;
- 4 (D) An assisted living facility;
- 5 (E) An intermediate care facility for the mentally  
6 retarded; or
- 7 (F) Any facility that provides long-term medical or  
8 personal care;
- 9 (10) "Long-term care facility resident" means a person eighteen  
10 (18) years of age or older living in a long-term care facility;
- 11 (11) "Long-term care facility resident maltreatment" means  
12 abuse, exploitation, neglect, physical abuse, or sexual abuse of an adult  
13 resident of a long-term care facility;
- 14 (12) "Maltreated adult" means an adult who has been abused,  
15 exploited, neglected, physically abused, or sexually abused;
- 16 (13) "Neglect" means:
- 17 (A) An act or omission by an endangered or impaired adult,  
18 for example, self-neglect; or
- 19 (B) An act or omission by a caregiver responsible for the  
20 care and supervision of an endangered or impaired adult constituting  
21 negligent failure to:
- 22 (i) Provide necessary treatment, rehabilitation,  
23 care, food, clothing, shelter, supervision, or medical services to an  
24 endangered or impaired adult;
- 25 (ii) Report health problems or changes in health  
26 problems or changes in the health condition of an endangered or impaired  
27 adult to the appropriate medical personnel;
- 28 (iii) Carry out a prescribed treatment plan; or
- 29 (iv) Provide to an adult resident of a long-term  
30 care facility goods or services necessary to avoid physical harm, mental  
31 anguish, or mental illness as defined in regulations promulgated by the  
32 Office of Long-Term Care of the Division of Medical Services of the  
33 Department of Health and Human Services;
- 34 (14)(A) "Physical injury" means the impairment of a physical  
35 condition or the infliction of substantial pain.
- 36 (B) If the person is an endangered or impaired adult,

1 there is a presumption that any physical injury resulted in the infliction of  
 2 substantial pain;

3 (15)(A) "Protective services" means services to protect an  
 4 endangered or impaired adult from:

5 (i) Self-neglect or self-abuse; or

6 (ii) Abuse or neglect by others.

7 (B) Protective services may include:

8 (i) Evaluation of the need for services;

9 (ii) Arrangements or referrals for appropriate  
 10 services available in the community;

11 (iii) Assistance in obtaining financial benefits to  
 12 which the person is entitled; or

13 (iv) As appropriate, referrals to law enforcement or  
 14 prosecutors;

15 (16) "Resident of a long-term care facility" means a person  
 16 eighteen (18) years of age or older living in a long-term care facility;

17 (17) "Serious bodily harm" means physical abuse, sexual abuse,  
 18 physical injury, or serious physical injury;

19 (18) "Serious physical injury" means physical injury to an  
 20 endangered or impaired adult that:

21 (A) Creates a substantial risk of death; or

22 (B) Causes protracted disfigurement, protracted impairment  
 23 of health, or loss or protracted impairment of the function of any bodily  
 24 member or organ;

25 (19) "Sexual abuse" means deviate sexual activity, sexual  
 26 contact, or sexual intercourse, as those terms are defined in § 5-14-101,  
 27 with another person who is not the actor's spouse and who is incapable of  
 28 consent because he or she is mentally defective, mentally incapacitated, or  
 29 physically helpless, ~~as those terms are defined in § 5-14-101;~~ and

30 (20) "Subject of the report" means:

31 (A) The endangered or impaired adult;

32 (B) The adult's legal guardian; and

33 (C) The offender.  
 34

35 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 9-20-114(a), concerning emergency custody  
 36 of a maltreated adult, is amended to read as follows:

1 (a) The Department of Health and Human Services or a law enforcement  
 2 official may take a maltreated adult into emergency custody, or any person in  
 3 charge of a hospital or similar institution or any physician treating any  
 4 maltreated adult may keep the maltreated adult in custody, whether or not  
 5 medical treatment is required if the circumstances or condition of the  
 6 maltreated adult are such that returning to or continuing at the maltreated  
 7 adult's place of residence or in the care or custody of a parent, guardian,  
 8 or other person responsible for the maltreated adult's care presents imminent  
 9 danger to the maltreated adult's health or safety and the maltreated adult  
 10 either:

11 (1) ~~lacks~~ Lacks the capacity to comprehend the nature and  
 12 consequences of remaining in a situation that presents imminent danger to his  
 13 or her health or safety; or

14 (2) Has a mental impairment or a physical impairment that  
 15 prevents the maltreated adult from protecting himself or herself from  
 16 imminent danger to his or her health or safety.

17  
 18 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 9-20-116(a), concerning the probable cause  
 19 hearing regarding the emergency order, is amended to read as follows:

20 (a)(1) Following issuance of an emergency order, the probate division  
 21 of circuit court shall hold a hearing within five (5) business days to  
 22 determine whether probable cause to issue the emergency order continues to  
 23 exist.

24 (2) The court may hold a probable cause hearing anywhere in the  
 25 judicial district.

26  
 27 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 9-20-117, concerning long-term custody and  
 28 court-ordered protective services hearings, is amended to add an additional  
 29 subsection to read as follows:

30 (f) The court may order that social security, retirement, or other  
 31 sources of income be redirected on behalf of the maltreated adult.

32  
 33 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 9-20-121 is amended to read as follows:  
 34 9-20-121. Availability of custody and protective services records.

35 (a) Reports, correspondence, memoranda, case histories, medical  
 36 records, or other materials, including protected health information, compiled

1 or gathered by the Department of Health and Human Services regarding a  
2 maltreated adult in the custody of the department or receiving protective  
3 services from the department shall be confidential and shall not be released  
4 or otherwise made available except:

5 (1) To the maltreated adult;

6 (2) To the attorney representing the maltreated adult in a  
7 custody or protective services case;

8 (3) For any audit or similar activity conducted with the  
9 administration of any plan or program by any governmental agency that is  
10 authorized by law to conduct the audit or activity;

11 (4) To law enforcement agencies, a prosecuting attorney, or the  
12 Attorney General;

13 (5)(A) To any licensing or registering authority to the extent  
14 necessary to carry out its official responsibilities.

15 (B) Information released under subdivision (5)(A) of this  
16 section shall be maintained as confidential;

17 (6) To a circuit court under this chapter;

18 (7) To a grand jury or court upon a finding that information in  
19 the record is necessary for the determination of an issue before the court or  
20 grand jury;

21 (8) To a person or provider currently providing care or services  
22 to the adult;

23 (9) To a person or provider identified by the department as  
24 having services needed by the adult;

25 (10)(A) To individual federal and state representatives and  
26 senators in their official capacity who shall not redisclose the information.

27 (B) No disclosure may be made to any committee or  
28 legislative body of any information that identifies by name or address any  
29 recipient of services; and

30 (11) In the discretion of the department, with family members if  
31 the adult is in the custody of the department.

32 (b) ~~No~~ Except for the maltreated adult, no person or agency to whom  
33 disclosure is made may disclose to any other person reports or other  
34 information obtained under this section.

35 (c) A disclosure of information in violation of this section shall be  
36 a Class C misdemeanor.

1  
2 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 12-12-1702 is amended to read as follows:  
3 12-12-1702. Purpose.

4 The purpose of this subchapter is to:

5 (1) Provide a system for the reporting of known or suspected  
6 adult and long-term care facility resident maltreatment;

7 (2) Ensure the screening, safety assessment, and prompt  
8 investigation of reports of known or suspected adult and long-term care  
9 facility resident maltreatment;

10 (3) Provide for a civil action, if appropriate, to protect  
11 maltreated adults and long-term care facility residents; and

12 (4) Encourage the cooperation of state law enforcement  
13 officials, courts, and state agencies in the investigation, and assessment,  
14 ~~and prosecution~~ of maltreated adults and long-term care facility residents  
15 and prosecution of offenders.

16  
17 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 12-12-1703 is amended to read as follows:  
18 12-12-1703. Definitions.

19 As used in this subchapter:

20 (1) "Abuse" means with regard to any long-term care facility  
21 resident or any patient at the Arkansas State Hospital, by a caregiver:

22 ~~(A)(i)~~ Any intentional and unnecessary physical act  
23 that inflicts pain on or causes injury to an endangered person or an impaired  
24 person, excluding court-ordered medical care or medical care requested by the  
25 patient or long-term care facility resident or a person legally authorized to  
26 make medical decisions on behalf of the patient or long-term care facility  
27 resident;

28 ~~(B)(ii)~~ Any intentional ~~or demeaning~~ act that a  
29 reasonable person would believe subjects an endangered person or an impaired  
30 person, regardless of age, ability to comprehend, or disability, to ridicule  
31 or psychological injury in a manner likely to provoke fear or alarm,  
32 excluding necessary care and treatment provided in accordance with generally  
33 recognized professional standards of care;

34 ~~(C)(iii)~~ Any intentional threat that a reasonable  
35 person would find credible and nonfrivolous to inflict pain on or cause  
36 injury to an endangered person or an impaired person except in the course of



1 medical treatment or for justifiable cause; or

2 ~~(D)(iv) With regard to any long-term care facility~~  
 3 ~~resident, any~~ Any willful infliction of injury, unreasonable confinement,  
 4 intimidation, or punishment with resulting physical harm, pain, or mental  
 5 anguish; and

6 (B) "Abuse" means with regard to any person who is not a  
 7 long-term care facility resident or a patient at the Arkansas State Hospital:

8 (i) Any intentional and unnecessary physical act  
 9 that inflicts pain on or causes injury to an endangered person or an impaired  
 10 person;

11 (ii) Any intentional act that a reasonable person  
 12 would believe subjects an endangered person or an impaired person, regardless  
 13 of age, ability to comprehend, or disability, to ridicule or psychological  
 14 injury in a manner likely to provoke fear or alarm; or

15 (iii) Any intentional threat that a reasonable  
 16 person would find credible and nonfrivolous to inflict pain on or cause  
 17 injury to an endangered person or an impaired person except in the course of  
 18 medical treatment or for justifiable cause;

19 (2) "Adult maltreatment" means abuse, exploitation, neglect, or  
 20 sexual abuse of an adult;

21 (3) "Caregiver" means a related person or an unrelated person,  
 22 an owner, an agent, a high managerial agent of a public or private  
 23 organization, or a public or private organization that has the responsibility  
 24 for the protection, care, or custody of an endangered person or an impaired  
 25 person as a result of assuming the responsibility voluntarily, by contract,  
 26 through employment, or by order of a court;

27 (4) "Department" means the Department of Health and Human  
 28 Services;

29 (5) "Endangered person" means:

30 (A) A person eighteen (18) years of age or older who:

31 (i) Is found to be in a situation or condition that  
 32 poses an imminent risk of death or serious bodily harm to that person; and

33 (ii) Demonstrates a lack of capacity to comprehend  
 34 the nature and consequences of remaining in that situation or condition; or

35 (B) A long-term care facility resident who:

36 (i) Is found to be in a situation or condition that

1 poses an imminent risk of death or serious bodily harm to the long-term care  
2 facility resident; and

3 (ii) Demonstrates a lack of capacity to comprehend  
4 the nature and consequences of remaining in that situation or condition;

5 (6) "Exploitation" means the:

6 (A) Illegal or unauthorized use or management of an  
7 endangered person's or an impaired person's funds, assets, or property;

8 (B) Use of an adult endangered person's or an adult  
9 impaired person's, power of attorney or guardianship for the profit or  
10 advantage of one's own self or another; or

11 (C) Misappropriation of property of a long-term care  
12 facility resident, that is, the deliberate misplacement, exploitation, or  
13 wrongful, temporary, or permanent use of a long-term care facility resident's  
14 belongings or money without the long-term care facility resident's consent;

15 (7) "Imminent danger to health or safety" means a situation in  
16 which death or ~~severe bodily injury~~ serious bodily harm could reasonably be  
17 expected to occur without intervention;

18 (8)(A) "Impaired person" means a person eighteen (18) years of  
19 age or older who as a result of mental or physical impairment is unable to  
20 protect himself or herself from abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or  
21 exploitation.

22 (B) For purposes of this subchapter, a long-term care  
23 facility resident is presumed to be an impaired person;

24 (9) "Long-term care facility" means:

25 (A) A nursing home;

26 (B) A residential care facility;

27 (C) A post-acute head injury retraining and residential  
28 facility;

29 (D) An assisted living facility;

30 (E) An intermediate care facility for the mentally  
31 retarded; or

32 (F) Any facility that provides long-term medical or  
33 personal care;

34 (10) "Long-term care facility resident" means a person,  
35 regardless of age, living in a long-term care facility;

36 (11) "Long-term care facility resident maltreatment" means

1 abuse, exploitation, neglect, or sexual abuse of a long-term care facility  
2 resident;

3 (12) "Maltreated adult" means an adult who has been abused,  
4 exploited, neglected, physically abused, or sexually abused;

5 (13) "Maltreated person" means a person, regardless of age, who  
6 has been abused, exploited, neglected, physically abused, or sexually abused;

7 (14) "Neglect" means:

8 (A) An act or omission by an endangered person or an  
9 impaired person, for example, self-neglect; or

10 (B) An act or omission by a caregiver responsible for the  
11 care and supervision of an endangered person or an impaired person  
12 constituting:

13 (i) Negligently failing to provide necessary  
14 treatment, rehabilitation, care, food, clothing, shelter, supervision, or  
15 medical services to an endangered person or an impaired person;

16 (ii) Negligently failing to report health problems  
17 or changes in health problems or changes in the health condition of an  
18 endangered person or an impaired person to the appropriate medical personnel;

19 (iii) Negligently failing to carry out a prescribed  
20 treatment plan; or

21 (iv) Negligently failing to provide goods or  
22 services to a long-term care facility resident necessary to avoid physical  
23 harm, mental anguish, or mental illness as defined in regulations promulgated  
24 by the Office of Long-Term Care of the Division of Medical Services of the  
25 Department of Health and Human Services;

26 (15)(A) "Physical injury" means the impairment of a physical  
27 condition or the infliction of substantial pain on a person.

28 (B) If the person is an endangered person or an impaired  
29 person, there shall be a presumption that any physical injury resulted in the  
30 infliction of substantial pain;

31 (16) "Serious bodily harm" means sexual abuse, physical injury,  
32 or serious physical injury;

33 (17) "Serious physical injury" means physical injury to an  
34 endangered person or an impaired person that creates a substantial risk of  
35 death or that causes protracted disfigurement, protracted impairment of  
36 health, or loss or protracted impairment of the function of any bodily member

1 or organ;

2 (18) "Sexual abuse" means deviate sexual activity, sexual  
3 contact, or sexual intercourse, as those terms are defined in § 5-14-101,  
4 with another person who is not the actor's spouse and who is incapable of  
5 consent because he or she is mentally defective, mentally incapacitated, or  
6 physically helpless, ~~as those terms are defined in § 5-14-101~~; and

7 (19) "Subject of the report" means:

- 8 (A) The endangered person or impaired person;
- 9 (B) The adult's legal guardian;
- 10 (C) The natural or legal guardian of a long-term care  
11 facility resident under eighteen (18) years of age; and
- 12 (D) The offender.

13  
14 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 12-12-1714 is amended to read as follows:

15 12-12-1714. Investigative powers of the Department of Health and Human  
16 Services.

17 (a) If admission cannot be obtained to a home, an institution, or  
18 other place in which an allegedly maltreated person may be present, a circuit  
19 court, upon good cause shown, shall order the person responsible for or in  
20 charge of the home, institution, or other place to allow entrance for an  
21 examination and investigation.

22 (b) If admission to a home cannot be obtained due to hospitalization  
23 or similar absence of the maltreated person and admission to the home is  
24 necessary to complete an investigation, a circuit court, upon good cause  
25 shown, shall order a law enforcement agency to assist the Department of  
26 Health and Human Services to obtain entrance to the home for the required  
27 investigation of the home environment.

28 (c)(1) Upon request, the medical, mental health, or other records  
29 regarding the maltreated person, including protected health information,  
30 maintained by any facility or maintained by any person required by this  
31 subchapter to report suspected adult maltreatment or long-term care facility  
32 resident maltreatment, shall be made available to the department for the  
33 purpose of conducting an investigation under this subchapter.

34 (2) Upon request, financial records maintained by a bank or  
35 similar institution regarding a maltreated person shall be made available to  
36 the department for the purpose of conducting an investigation under this

1 subchapter.

2 (3) A circuit court, upon good cause shown, shall order any  
3 facility or person that maintains medical, mental health, or other records,  
4 including protected health information, regarding a maltreated person to  
5 tender the records to the department for the purpose of conducting an  
6 investigation under this subchapter.

7 (d) An investigation under this subchapter may include a medical,  
8 psychological, social, vocational, financial, and educational evaluation and  
9 review, if necessary.

10 (e) If before an investigation under this subchapter is completed, the  
11 Adult Protective Services Unit of the Department of Health and Human Services  
12 determines that the immediate removal of a maltreated adult is necessary to  
13 protect the maltreated adult from imminent danger to his or her health or  
14 safety, the unit may:

15 (1) Petition a circuit court for an order of temporary custody;  
16 or

17 (2) Exercise a seventy-two-hour hold under the Adult  
18 Maltreatment Custody Act, § 9-20-101 et seq.

19 (f) Upon petition by the Department of Health and Human Services, the  
20 court may direct payment from the assets of the allegedly maltreated adult  
21 for services rendered or goods purchased by or for the allegedly maltreated  
22 adult during the course of the investigation.

23

24 SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 12-12-1717 is amended to read as follows:

25 12-12-1717. Availability of founded reports of adult or long-term care  
26 facility resident maltreatment.

27 (a) A report made under this subchapter that is determined to be  
28 founded, as well as any other information obtained, including protected  
29 health information, and a report written or photograph taken concerning a  
30 founded report in the possession of the Department of Health and Human  
31 Services shall be confidential and shall be made available only to:

32 (1) A physician who has before him or her an endangered person  
33 or an impaired person the physician reasonably believes may have been  
34 maltreated;

35 (2) A person authorized to place the adult in protective custody  
36 if the person:

1 (A) Has before him or her an adult the person reasonably  
2 believes may have been maltreated; and

3 (B) Requires the information to determine whether to place  
4 the adult in protective custody;

5 (3) An authorized agency having responsibility for the care or  
6 supervision of an endangered person or an impaired person;

7 (4) Any person who is the subject of a report or that person's  
8 legal guardian;

9 (5) A grand jury or court, if the grand jury or court determines  
10 that the information is necessary for the determination of an issue before  
11 the grand jury or court;

12 (6) A prosecuting attorney, law enforcement official, coroner,  
13 or the Attorney General or his or her designated investigator;

14 (7)(A) A mandated reporter who has made a report of suspected  
15 maltreatment.

16 (B) However, a mandated reporter shall receive the  
17 information only to the extent that he or she may be informed after  
18 completion and closure of the investigation whether:

19 (i) Legal action was taken;

20 (ii) Services were provided; or

21 (iii) No action was taken.

22 (C) No further information shall be released to a mandated  
23 reporter, and the mandated reporter shall be informed of the confidentiality  
24 of the information and the penalties for disclosure;

25 (8)(A) An employer or volunteer agency for the purpose of  
26 screening an employee, applicant, or volunteer upon submission of a signed,  
27 notarized release from the employee, applicant, or volunteer.

28 (B) The only information released to the employer or  
29 volunteer agency shall be whether or not the adult and long-term care  
30 facility resident maltreatment central registry contains any founded reports  
31 naming the employee, applicant, or volunteer as an offender;

32 (9) The Death Review Committee of the Department of Health and  
33 Human Services;

34 (10) The current administrator of the long-term care facility,  
35 if the incident occurred in a long-term care facility;

36 (11) The administrator of the long-term care facility that

1 currently employs the offender, if different from the long-term care facility  
2 in which the incident occurred;

3 (12) A person or provider identified by the department as having  
4 services needed by the maltreated person; ~~and~~

5 (13) Any applicable licensing or registering authority;

6 (14) Any employer, legal entity, or board responsible for the  
7 person named as the offender;

8 (15) Any legal entity or board responsible for the maltreated  
9 person; and

10 (16) The Division of Developmental Disabilities Services and the  
11 Division of Aging and Adult Services as to participants of the waiver  
12 program.

13 (b)(1) Under no circumstances may the information contained in the  
14 registry be released to a person unless the person's capacity is confirmed by  
15 the department.

16 (2) Except for the subject of the report, no person or agency to  
17 whom disclosure is made may disclose to any other person a report or other  
18 information obtained under this section.

19 (c)(1) The department may not release data that would identify the  
20 person who made a report except to law enforcement, a prosecuting attorney,  
21 or the office of the Attorney General.

22 (2) A court of competent jurisdiction may order release of data  
23 that would identify the person who made a report after the court has reviewed  
24 in camera the record related to the report and has found that disclosure is  
25 needed:

26 (A) To prevent execution of a crime; or

27 (B) For prosecution of a crime.

28 (d) However, information contained in the registry may be made  
29 available to bona fide and approved research groups solely for the purpose of  
30 scientific research, but in no event shall the name of a person be released,  
31 nor shall specific circumstances or facts related to a specific person be  
32 used in any research report that might be identifiable with the person.

33 (e) Any person who willfully permits and any other person who  
34 encourages the release of data or information contained in the registry to a  
35 person not permitted by this subchapter to receive the data or information is  
36 guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

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2 SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 12-12-1718 is amended to read as follows:  
3 12-12-1718. Availability of screened out, pending, and unfounded  
4 reports.

5 (a)(1) A screened out report or a pending report, including protected  
6 health information, shall be confidential and shall be made available only  
7 to:

8 (A) The Department of Health and Human Services, including  
9 the Death Review Committee of the Department of Health and Human Services;

10 (B) A law enforcement agency;

11 (C) A prosecuting attorney;

12 (D) The office of the Attorney General;

13 (E) A circuit court having jurisdiction pursuant to a  
14 petition for emergency, temporary, long-term protective custody, or  
15 protective services;

16 (F) A grand jury or court, upon a finding that the  
17 information in the report is necessary for the determination of an issue  
18 before the grand jury or court;

19 (G) A person or provider identified by the department as  
20 having services needed by the maltreated person; ~~and~~

21 (H) Any applicable licensing or registering authority;

22 (I) Any employer, legal entity, or board responsible for  
23 the person named as the offender;

24 (J) Any legal entity or board responsible for the  
25 maltreated person; and

26 (K) The Division of Developmental Disabilities Services  
27 and the Division of Aging and Adult Services as to participants of the waiver  
28 program.

29 (2) The subject of the report may only be advised that a report  
30 is pending.

31 (b) Upon completion of the administrative hearing process and if an  
32 allegation was determined to be unfounded, the investigative report,  
33 including protected health information, shall be confidential and shall be  
34 made available only to:

35 (1) The department, including the committee;

36 (2) A law enforcement agency;



1 (3) A prosecuting attorney;

2 (4) The office of the Attorney General;

3 (5) Any applicable licensing or registering authority;

4 (6) Any person named as a subject of the report or that person's  
5 legal guardian;

6 (7) A circuit court having jurisdiction pursuant to a petition  
7 for emergency, temporary, long-term protective custody, or protective  
8 services;

9 (8) A grand jury or court, upon a finding that the information  
10 in the record is necessary for the determination of an issue before the grand  
11 jury or court; ~~and~~

12 (9) A person or provider identified by the department as having  
13 services needed by the person;

14 (10) Any employer, legal entity, or board responsible for the  
15 person named as the offender;

16 (11) Any legal entity or board responsible for the maltreated  
17 person; and

18 (12) The Division of Developmental Disabilities Services and the  
19 Division of Aging and Adult Services as to participants of the waiver  
20 program.

21 (c)(1) An unfounded report shall be expunged one (1) year after  
22 completion of the investigation.

23 (2) However, demographic information may be retained for  
24 statistical purposes.

25 (d)(1) Except for the subject of the report, no person or agency to  
26 which disclosure is made may disclose to any other person a report or other  
27 information obtained under this section.

28 (2) Upon conviction, any person disclosing information in  
29 violation of this subsection is guilty of a Class C misdemeanor.

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