

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.

Act 669 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas  
2 86th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2007  
4

As Engrossed: H3/6/07

**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1714

5 By: Representative Pate  
6  
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**For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE OFFENSE OF INTERFERENCE WITH  
10 CUSTODY; TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR THE  
11 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES IN CASES  
12 INVOLVING THE OFFENSE OF INTERFERENCE WITH  
13 CUSTODY; AND FOR OTHER PUPROSES.  
14

**Subtitle**

15 TO CREATE THE OFFENSE OF INTERFERENCE  
16 WITH CUSTODY AND TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES  
17 FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN  
18 SERVICES IN CASES INVOLVING THE OFFENSE  
19 OF INTERFERENCE WITH CUSTODY.  
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 5, Chapter 26, Subchapter 5 is amended  
26 to add an additional section to read as follows:

27 5-26-503. Interference with custody.

28 (a) A person commits the offense of interference with custody if  
29 without lawful authority he or she knowingly takes or entices, or aids,  
30 abets, hires, or otherwise procures another person to take or entice any  
31 minor from the custody of:

32 (1) The parent of the minor including an unmarried woman having  
33 legal custody of an illegitimate child under § 9-10-113;

34 (2) The guardian of the minor;

35 (3) A public agency having lawful charge of the minor; or



1           (4) Any other lawful custodian.

2           (b) Interference with custody is a Class C felony.

3           (c)(1) In every case prior to serving a warrant for arrest on a person  
4 charged with the offense of interference with custody, the police officer or  
5 other law enforcement officer shall inform the Department of Health and Human  
6 Services of the circumstances of any minor named in the information or  
7 indictment as having been taken, enticed, or kept from the parent, guardian,  
8 or custodian in a manner constituting interference with custody.

9           (2) A representative of the department shall be present with the  
10 arresting police officer or law enforcement officer to take the minor into  
11 temporary custody of the department pending further proceedings by a court of  
12 competent jurisdiction.

13           (d)(1) A court of competent jurisdiction shall determine the immediate  
14 custodial placement of any minor taken into custody by the department under  
15 subsection (c) of this section pursuant to a petition brought by the  
16 department to determine if there is probable cause to believe the minor may  
17 be:

18                   (A) Removed from the jurisdiction of the court;

19                   (B) Abandoned; or

20                   (C) Outside the immediate care or supervision of a person  
21 lawfully entitled to custody.

22           (2) The court shall immediately give custody to the lawful  
23 custodian if it finds that the lawful custodian is present before the court.

24           (e)(1) The department shall comply with the requirements of § 9-27-312  
25 with regard to the giving of a notice and the setting of a hearing on a  
26 petition filed under subsection (d) of this section.

27           (2) The department is immune from liability with respect to any  
28 conduct undertaken pursuant to this section unless it is determined that the  
29 department acted with actual malice.

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31   /s/ Pate

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33   APPROVED: 3/29/2007