

1 State of Arkansas  
2 89th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2013  
4

*As Engrossed: S3/21/13*  
**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1812

5 By: Representative Leding  
6 *By: Senator J. Woods*  
7

8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE ADULT MALTREATMENT CUSTODY ACT;  
10 TO ADD DEFINITIONS AND DESCRIBE THE PROCESS FOR LESS-  
11 THAN-CUSTODY ORDERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
12  
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14 **Subtitle**

15 TO CLARIFY THE ADULT MALTREATMENT CUSTODY  
16 ACT; AND TO ADD DEFINITIONS AND DESCRIBE  
17 THE PROCESS FOR LESS-THAN-CUSTODY ORDERS.  
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 9-20-103(10) and (11), concerning  
23 definitions for the Adult Maltreatment Custody Act, are amended to read as  
24 follows:

25 (10)(A) "Impaired adult" means a person eighteen (18) years of  
26 age or older who, as a result of mental or physical impairment, is unable to  
27 protect himself or herself from abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or  
28 exploitation.

29 (B) For purposes of this chapter, residents of a long-term  
30 care facility are presumed to be impaired persons.

31 (C) For purposes of this chapter, a person with a mental  
32 impairment does not include a person who is in need of acute psychiatric  
33 treatment, chronic mental health treatment, alcohol or drug abuse treatment,  
34 or casework supervision by mental health professionals.

35 (D) For purposes of this chapter, an adult who has a  
36 representative payee appointed for that adult by the Social Security



1 Administration or other authorized agency is presumed to be an impaired adult  
2 in relation to adult maltreatment through financial exploitation;

3 (11)(A) “Less-than-custody order” means ~~any~~ an emergency order  
4 issued by a circuit court of the State of Arkansas on petition or motion of  
5 the department that makes specific orders for the protection of an endangered  
6 or impaired adult but does not give the department custody over an endangered  
7 or impaired adult.

8 (B) A less-than-custody order may specify appropriate  
9 safeguards, including without limitation:

10 (i) Prohibiting a legal custodian or guardian of an  
11 endangered or impaired adult from having contact with the endangered or  
12 impaired adult;

13 (ii) Prohibiting a legal custodian, guardian, or  
14 holder of a power of attorney of an endangered or impaired adult from  
15 withdrawing funds from one (1) or more accounts of the endangered or impaired  
16 adult or otherwise accessing the assets of the endangered or impaired adult;  
17 or

18 (iii) Requiring the endangered or impaired adult to  
19 accept services as directed by the court;

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21 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 9-20-115 is amended to read as follows:

22 9-20-115. Emergency ~~order of custody~~ orders.

23 (a)(1) If there is probable cause to believe that immediate emergency  
24 custody is necessary to protect a maltreated adult, the probate division of  
25 circuit court shall issue an ex parte order for emergency custody to protect  
26 the maltreated adult.

27 (2) If there is probable cause to believe that immediate  
28 emergency action is necessary to protect an endangered or impaired adult from  
29 adult maltreatment, the probate division of circuit court may issue an ex  
30 parte less-than-custody order to protect the adult in lieu of an ex parte  
31 order for emergency custody.

32 (b) The Department of Human Services shall obtain an emergency ex  
33 parte order of custody on a maltreated adult within seventy-two (72) hours of  
34 taking the maltreated adult into emergency custody unless the expiration of  
35 the seventy-two (72) hours falls on a weekend or holiday, in which case  
36 emergency custody may be extended through the next business day following the

1 weekend or holiday.

2 (c) The emergency order shall include notice to the maltreated adult  
3 and the person from whom physical custody of the respondent was removed of  
4 the right to a hearing and that a hearing will be held within five (5)  
5 business days of the issuance of the ex parte order.

6 ~~(d) If there is probable cause to believe that immediate action is~~  
7 ~~necessary to protect the health, safety, or welfare of an endangered or~~  
8 ~~impaired adult, the probate division of circuit court may issue an ex parte~~  
9 ~~order necessary to protect the adult.~~

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*/s/Leding*

**APPROVED: 04/02/2013**