

1 **State of Arkansas**  
2 **79th General Assembly**  
3 **Regular Session, 1993**

# A Bill

**HOUSE BILL**

4 **By: Representative Fairchild**

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

8 "AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE ANNOTATED §12-12-315 TO  
9 CLARIFY TO WHOM DEATHS ARE TO BE REPORTED AND WHAT TYPES  
10 OF DEATHS ARE TO BE REPORTED; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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## **Subtitle**

13 "AN ACT TO CLARIFY TO WHOM DEATHS ARE REPORTED AND WHAT  
14 TYPES OF DEATHS ARE TO BE REPORTED."

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

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18 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Annotated §12-12-315(a) is amended to read as  
19 follows:

20 "12-12-315. Notification of sudden unexpected death.

21 (a) The county coroner and the chief law enforcement official of the  
22 county and municipality in which death of a human being occurs shall be  
23 promptly notified by any physician, law enforcement officer, undertaker or  
24 embalmer, jailer or correction officer, coroner, or by any other person  
25 present or with knowledge of the death, if:

26 (1) The death appears to be caused by violence or appears to be  
27 the result of homicide, suicide, or accidental;

28 (2) The death appears to be the result of the presence of drugs  
29 or poisons in the body;

30 (3) The death appears to be as a result of a motor vehicle  
31 accident or the body was found in or near a roadway or railroad;

32 (4) The death appears to be as a result of a motor vehicle  
33 accident and there is no obvious trauma to the body;

34 (5) The death occurs while the person is in a state mental  
35 institution or hospital and there is no previous medical history to explain

1 the death, or while the person is in police custody, a jail, or penal  
2 institution;

3 (6) The death appears to be the result of a fire or explosion;

4 (7) The death of a minor child appears to indicate child abuse  
5 prior to death;

6 (8) Human skeletal remains are recovered;

7 (9) Postmortem decomposition exists to the extent that an  
8 external examination of the corpse cannot rule out injury or where the  
9 circumstances of death cannot rule out the commission of a crime;

10 (10) The death appears to be the result of drowning;

11 (11) The death of an infant or minor child in cases where there  
12 is no previous medical history to explain the death;

13 (12) The manner of death appears to be other than natural;

14 (13) The death is sudden and unexplained;

15 (14) The death occurs at a work site;

16 (15) The death is due to criminal abortion;

17 (16) The death of a person where a physician was not in  
18 attendance within thirty-six (36) hours preceding death, or in prediagnosed  
19 terminal or bedfast cases within thirty (30) days;

20 (17) Where a person is admitted to a hospital emergency room  
21 unconscious and is unresponsive, with cardiopulmonary resuscitative measures  
22 being performed, and dies within twenty-four (24) hours of admission without  
23 regaining consciousness or responsiveness, unless a physician was in  
24 attendance within thirty-six (36) hours preceding presentation to the  
25 hospital, or in cases in which the decedent had a prediagnosed terminal or  
26 bedfast condition unless a physician was in attendance within thirty (30) days  
27 preceding presentation to the hospital. Nothing in this section shall be  
28 construed to require an investigation, autopsy or inquest in any case where  
29 death occurred without medical attendance solely because the deceased was  
30 under treatment by prayer or spiritual means in accordance with the tenets and  
31 practices of a well recognized church or religious denomination."

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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.

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