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1 State of Arkansas
                                  As Engrossed: H3/20/97 H3/27/97
                                        A Bill
 2 81st General Assembly
                                                                     HOUSE BILL
 3 Regular Session, 1997
                                                                                  2281
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 5 By: Representative Pollan
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 7
                              For An Act To Be Entitled
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           "AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS CODE ANNOTATED SECTION 12-
           12-503, 12-12-505, 12-12-506, 12-12-509, 12-12-510, 12-12-
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           512, 12-12-514, AND 12-12-515 REGARDING THE DUTIES AND
11
           RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHILD MALTREATMENT ACT; AND FOR
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13
           OTHER PURPOSES."
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                                      Subtitle
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                     "AMEND THE ARKANSAS CODE ANNOTATED
16
                     SECTION 12-12-503, 12-12-505, 12-12-506,
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                     12-12-509, 12-12-510, 12-12-512, 12-12-
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                      514, AND 12-12-515 REGARDING THE DUTIES
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                      AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHILD
                     MALTREATMENT ACT."
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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         SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 12-12-503 is amended to read as follows:
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         "12-12-503. Definitions.
         As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise requires:
2.7
       (1) Child or juvenile means an individual who:
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29
          (A) Is under the age of eighteen (18) years;
          (B) Is under the age of twenty-one (21) years, whether married
31 or single, who was adjudicated delinquent under the Arkansas Juvenile
32 Code, ^{\circ} 9-27-301 et seq., for an act committed prior to the age of
33 eighteen (18) years, and for whom the court retains jurisdiction; or
          (C) Was adjudicated dependent-neglected under the Arkansas
35 Juvenile Code, ^{6} 9-27-301 et seq., before reaching the age of eighteen
36 (18) years, and who, while engaged in a course of instruction or
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- 1 treatments, requests the court to retain jurisdiction until the course
- 2 has been completed;
- 3 (2) Parent means a biological mother, an adoptive parent, a man
- 4 to whom the biological mother was married at the time of conception or
- 5 birth, or who has been found, by a court of competent jurisdiction, to
- 6 be the biological father of the juvenile;
- 7 (3) Child maltreatment means abuse, sexual abuse, neglect,
- 8 sexual exploitation, or abandonment;
- 9 (4)(A) Abuse means any of the following acts or omissions by a
- 10 parent, guardian, custodian, foster parent, or any person who is
- 11 entrusted with the juvenile's care by a parent, guardian, custodian,
- 12 or foster parent, including, but not limited to, an agent or employee
- 13 of a public or private residential home, child care facility, public
- 14 or private school, or any person legally responsible for the
- 15 juvenile's welfare:
- 16 (i) Extreme and repeated cruelty to a juvenile; or
- 17 (ii) Physical, psychological, or sexual abuse of any juvenile
- 18 which includes, but is not limited to, intentionally, knowingly, or
- 19 negligently and without justifiable cause:
- 20 (a) Engaging in conduct creating a substantial possibility of
- 21 death, permanent or temporary disfigurement, illness, impairment of
- 22 any bodily organ, or an observable and substantial impairment in the
- 23 intellectual or psychological capacity of the juvenile to function
- 24 within his normal range of performance and behavior with due regard to
- 25 his culture;
- 26 (b) Any nonaccidental physical injury or mental injury; or
- 27 (c) Any injury which is at variance with the history given.
- 28 (B)(i) Abuse shall not include physical discipline of a child when it
- 29 is reasonable and moderate and is inflicted by a parent or
- 30 guardian for purposes of restraining or correcting the child.
- 31 (ii) The following actions are not reasonable or moderate when
- 32 used to correct or restrain a child:
- 33 (a) Throwing, kicking, burning, biting, or cutting a child;
- 34 (b) Striking a child with a closed fist;
- 35 (c) Shaking a child under age three (3);
- 36 (d) Striking or other actions which result in any nonaccidental

- 1 injury to a child under the age of eighteen (18) months;
- 2 (e) Interfering with a child's breathing;
- 3 (f) Threatening a child with a deadly weapon;
- 4 (g) Striking a child on the face; or
- 5 (h) Doing any other act that is likely to cause, and which does
- 6 cause, bodily harm greater than transient pain or minor temporary
- 7 marks.
- 8 (iii) The age, size, and condition of the child, and the
- 9 location of the injury and the frequency or recurrence of injuries
- 10 shall be considered when determining whether the bodily harm is
- 11 reasonable or moderate.
- 12 (iv) This list is illustrative of unreasonable action and is
- 13 not intended to be exclusive;
- 14 (5) Sexual abuse includes solicitation or participation in
- 15 sexual activity with a juvenile by an adult or person responsible for
- 16 the care and maintenance of the juvenile. Sexual abuse also includes
- 17 any offense relating to sexual activity, abuse, or exploitation,
- 18 including rape and incest, as set out and defined in the Arkansas
- 19 Criminal Code and amendments thereto, <sup>8</sup> 5-1-101 et seq;
- 20 (6) Neglect means those acts or omissions of a parent,
- 21 guardian, custodian, foster parent, or any person who is entrusted
- 22 with the juvenile's care by a parent, custodian, guardian, or foster
- 23 parent, including, but not limited to, an agent or employee of a
- 24 public or private residential home, child care facility, public or
- 25 private school, or any person legally responsible under state law for
- 26 the juvenile's welfare, which constitute:
- 27 (A) Failure or refusal to prevent the abuse of the juvenile
- 28 when such person knows or has reasonable cause to know the juvenile is
- 29 or has been abused;
- 30 (B) Failure or refusal to provide the necessary food, clothing,
- 31 shelter, and education required by law, or medical treatment necessary
- 32 for the juvenile's well-being, except when the failure or refusal is
- 33 caused primarily by the financial inability of the person legally
- 34 responsible and no services for relief have been offered or rejected;
- 35 (C) Failure to take reasonable action to protect the juvenile
- 36 from abandonment, abuse, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, neglect,

- 1 or parental unfitness where the existence of such condition was known
- 2 or should have been known;
- 3 (D) Failure or irremedial inability to provide for the
- 4 essential and necessary physical, mental, or emotional needs of the
- 5 juvenile;
- 6 (E) Failure to provide for the juvenile's care and maintenance,
- 7 proper or necessary support, or medical, surgical, or other necessary
- 8 care; or
- 9 (F) Failure, although able, to assume responsibility for the
- 10 care and custody of the juvenile or participate in a plan to assume
- 11 such responsibility;
- 12 (7) Sexual exploitation means allowing, permitting, or
- 13 encouraging participation or depiction of the juvenile in
- 14 prostitution, obscene photographing, filming, or obscenely depicting a
- 15 juvenile for any use or purpose;
- 16 (8) Abandonment means the failure of the parent to provide
- 17 reasonable support and to maintain regular contact with the juvenile
- 18 through statement or contact, when the failure is accompanied by an
- 19 intention on the part of the parent to permit the condition to
- 20 continue for an indefinite period in the future, and failure to
- 21 support or maintain regular contact with the juvenile without just
- 22 cause for a period of one (1) year shall constitute a rebuttable
- 23 presumption of abandonment;
- 24 (9) Caretaker means a parent, guardian, custodian, foster
- 25 parent, or any person ten (10) years of age or older who is entrusted
- 26 with a child's care by a parent, guardian, custodian, or foster
- 27 parent, including, but not limited to, an agent or employee of a
- 28 public or private residential home, child care facility, public or
- 29 private school, or any person responsible for a child's welfare;
- 30 (10) Severe maltreatment means sexual abuse, sexual
- 31 exploitation, acts or omissions which may or do result in death, abuse
- 32 involving the use of a deadly weapon as defined by the Arkansas
- 33 Criminal Code,  $^{\circ}$  5-1-101 et seq., bone fracture, internal injuries,
- 34 burns, immersions, suffocation, abandonment, medical diagnosis of
- 35 failure to thrive, or causing a substantial and observable change in
- 36 the behavior or demeanor of the child;

- 1 (11) Department means the Department of Human Services;
- 2 (12) Subject of the report means the offender, the parents and
- 3 caretakers of the child who is subject to suspected maltreatment, and
- 4 the child who is the subject of suspected maltreatment; and
- 5 (13) Central intake refers to a unit which shall be established
- 6 by the Department of Human Services for the purpose of receiving and
- 7 recording notification made pursuant to this subchapter. Central
- 8 intake shall be staffed twenty-four (24) hours per day and shall have
- 9 statewide accessibility through a toll-free telephone number-;
- 10 (14) Near Fatality means an act that, as certified by a physician,
- 11 places the child in serious or critical condition; and
- 12 (15) Serious bodily injury means bodily injury which involves
- 13 substantial risk of death, extreme physical pain, protracted and obvious
- 14 disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily
- 15 member, organ, or mental faculty."

- 17 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code 12-12-505 is amended to read as follows:
- 18 "12-12-505. Central registry.
- 19 (a) There is established within the Department of Human Services a
- 20 statewide central registry for the collection of records of cases
- 21 involving allegations of child maltreatment which are determined to be
- 22 true pursuant to this subchapter.
- 23 (b) Records of all cases where allegations are determined to be
- 24 true shall be retained by the central registry. Records of all cases where
- 25 allegations are determined to be unsubstantiated shall be promptly expunged.
- 26 The department is permitted to keep information on unsubstantiated reports in
- 27 its casework files to assist in future risk and safety assessment but this
- 28 information shall not be subject to disclosure except as permitted in 8 12-12-
- 29 512(a)(1).
- 30 (c) The central registry may adopt such rules and regulations as
- 31 may be necessary to encourage cooperation with other states in
- 32 exchanging true reports, and to effect a national registration system."

- 34 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code 12-12-506 is amended to read as follows:
- 35 "12-12-506. Disclosure of central registry data.
- 36 (a)(1) Reports made pursuant to this subchapter shall be confidential

- 1 and may be used or disclosed only as provided in this section.
- 2 (2)(A) If the allegations are determined to be true in accordance
- 3 with  $^{\mbox{\scriptsize $\theta$}}$  12-12-512, disclosure is absolutely limited to:
- 4 (i) The administration of the adoption, foster care, children's
- 5 protective services programs, or child care licensing programs of any
- 6 state;
- 7 (ii) Any law enforcement investigation or criminal prosecution
- 8 conducted in connection with the provisions of this subchapter; Federal, state
- 9 or local government entities, or any agent of such entities, having a need for
- 10 such information in order to carry out its responsibilities under law to
- 11 protect children from abuse or neglect;
- 12 (iii) Any person who is the subject of a true report;
- 13 (iv) A civil or administrative proceeding connected with the
- 14 administration of the Arkansas Child Welfare State Plan where the
- 15 court or hearing officer determines the information is necessary for
- 16 the determination of an issue before the court or agency;
- 17 (v) The administration of any federal or federally assisted
- 18 program which provides assistance, in cash or in kind, or services
- 19 directly to individuals on the basis of need;
- 20 (vi) An audit or similar activity conducted in connection with
- 21 the administration of such plan or program by any governmental agency
- 22 which is authorized by law to conduct the audit or activity;
- 23 (vii) A person, agency, or organization engaged in a bona fide
- 24 research or evaluation project, but without information identifying
- 25 individuals named in a report or record, provided that:
- 26 (a) Having that information open for review is essential to the
- 27 research or evaluation;
- 28 (b) Prior written approval is granted by the Director of the
- 29 Department of Human Services; and
- 30 (c) The child, through his parent, guardian, or guardian ad
- 31 litem, gives permission to release the information;
- 32 (viii) A properly constituted authority, including
- 33 multidisciplinary teams referenced in 8 12-12-502(b), investigating a
- 34 report of known or suspected child abuse or neglect or providing
- 35 services to a child or family which is the subject of a report;
- 36 (ix)(a) The Child Care Facility Review Board and the child care

- 1 facility owner or operator who requested the registry information
- 2 through a signed notarized release from an individual who is a
- 3 volunteer or who has applied for employment or who is currently
- 4 employed by a child care facility or who is the owner or operator of a
- 5 child care facility.
- 6 (b) This disclosure shall be for the limited purpose of
- 7 providing central registry background information and shall indicate a
- 8 true finding only.
- 9 (x) Child abuse citizen panels described in the Child Abuse Prevention
- 10 and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a);
- 11 (xi) Child fatality review panels as authorized by the department;
- 12 (xii) To the general public the findings or information about the case
- 13 of child abuse or neglect which has resulted in a child fatality or near
- 14 fatality;
- 15 (xiii) A grand jury or court, upon a finding that information in the
- 16 record is necessary for the determination of an issue before the court or
- 17 grand jury;
- 18 (B) Reports of investigative determinations which are true
- 19 shall be disclosed to the Child Care Facility Review Board, by oral
- 20 report only, for purposes of enforcement of licensing law and
- 21 regulations.
- 22 (b) Any licensing or registering authority in receipt of initial
- 23 notification of suspected child maltreatment may access the central
- 24 registry to the extent necessary to carry out its official
- 25 responsibilities, but the information must be maintained as
- 26 confidential.
- 27 (c)(1) Any person or agency to whom disclosure is made shall not
- 28 disclose to any other person reports or other information obtained
- 29 pursuant to this section.
- 30 (2) Provided, however, that a local educational agency or a
- 31 school counselor shall forward all true reports of child maltreatment
- 32 received from the department whenever a child transfers from one (1)
- 33 local educational agency to another, and shall notify the department
- 34 of the child's new school, and address, if known.
- 35 (3) Any person disclosing information in violation of this
- 36 subsection shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor.

- 1 (d) Disclosure is prohibited to any committee or legislative
- 2 body, other than an agency referred to in \$\delta\$ 12-12-507(e) and
- 3 12-12-509 12-12-511 with respect to an activity referred to in such
- 4 sections, of any information which identifies by name or address any
- 5 applicant or recipient.
- 6 (e) The department shall not release data that would identify the
- 7 person who made the report or who cooperated in a subsequent
- 8 investigation, unless a court of competent jurisdiction orders release
- 9 of the information for good cause shown. after such court has reviewed, in
- 10 camera, the record related to the report and has found it has reason to
- 11 believe that the reporter knowingly made a false report. However, the
- 12 information shall be disclosed to the prosecuting attorney or law enforcement
- 13 officers on request.
- 14 (f) Within ten (10) days following an investigative determination, the
- 15 department shall provide the person or agency making notification of suspected
- 16 child maltreatment information as to whether an investigation has been
- 17 conducted and whether services have been offered.
- 18 (g) The department may disclose the investigative determination to the
- 19 employer of any offender when the offender is engaged in child related
- 20 activities or employment.
- 21 (h) Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to prevent subsequent
- 22 disclosure by the subject of the report."

- 24 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code 12-12-509 is amended to read as follows:
- 25 "12-12-509. Investigation Examinations of children.
- 26 (a)(1) The department shall cause an investigation to be made upon
- 27 receiving initial notification of suspected child maltreatment.
- 28 (2)(A) All investigations shall begin within seventy-two (72)
- 29 hours.
- 30 (B) However, if the notice contains an allegation of severe
- 31 maltreatment then the department shall immediately notify law
- 32 enforcement, and the department shall initiate an investigation in
- 33 cooperation with law enforcement agencies and the prosecuting attorney
- 34 within twenty-four (24) hours.
- 35 (b) The investigation shall seek to ascertain:
- 36 (1) The existence, cause, nature, and extent of the child

- 1 maltreatment;
- 2 (2) The existence and extent of previous injuries;
- 3 (3) The identity of the person responsible therefore;
- 4 (4) The names and conditions of other children in the home;
- 5 (5) The circumstances of the parents or caretakers of the child;
- 6 (6) The environment where the child resides;
- 7 (7) The relationship of the child or children with the parents or
- 8 caretakers; and
- 9 (8) All other pertinent data.
- 10 (c)(1) The investigation shall include interviews with the
- 11 parents, the caretakers, as may be relevant to the alleged
- 12 maltreatment, and . If the parents are not the alleged offender, the
- 13 investigation shall also include an interview with the alleged offender. The
- 14 investigation shall include an interview with any other relevant persons.
- (2) The investigation shall include an interview with the child separate
- 16 and apart from the alleged offender or any representative or attorney for the
- 17 alleged offender. However, if the age or abilities of the child render an
- 18 interview impossible, the investigation shall include observation of the
- 19 child.
- 20 (3) The investigation may include a physical examination and a
- 21 psychological or psychiatric examination of all children subject to
- 22 the care, custody, or control of the same caretaker.
- 23 (4) If, after exercising reasonable diligence in conducting any
- 24 or all interviews, the subjects of the interviews cannot be located or
- 25 are unable to communicate, the efforts to conduct such interviews
- 26 shall be documented and the investigation shall proceed pursuant to
- 27 this subchapter.
- 28 (d) An investigative determination shall be made in each
- 29 investigation within thirty (30) days. However, this procedural
- 30 requirement shall not be considered as a factor to alter the
- 31 investigative determination in any judicial or administrative
- 32 proceeding."
- 33
- 34 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code 12-12-510 is hereby amended to read as
- 35 follows:
- 36 "12-12-510. Investigative powers.

- 1 (a) The person conducting the investigation shall have the right to
- 2 enter into or upon the home, school, or other place, for the purpose
- 3 of conducting an interview or completing the investigation required by
- 4 this subchapter.
- 5 (b) If necessary access or admission is denied, the department
- 6 may petition the proper juvenile division of the chancery court for an
- 7 order requiring the parents, caretaker, or persons denying access to
- 8 any place where the child may be to allow entrance for the interviews,
- 9 examinations, and investigations.
- 10 (c) However, upon application to the court showing good cause,
- 11 the order may be stayed pending a hearing to be held within
- 12 seventy-two (72) hours.
- 13 (d) The department shall investigate all allegations of child
- 14 maltreatment without regard to the parent's practice of his religious
- 15 beliefs and shall only consider whether the acts or omissions of the
- 16 parent are abusive or neglectful as defined by the Arkansas Code.
- 17 (e) The person conducting the investigation shall have the right to
- 18 inspect personnel records of employees and volunteers in any place where an
- 19 allegation of child maltreatment has been reported as having occurred at that
- 20 place but the alleged offender is unknown."
- 21
- 22 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code 12-12-511 is amended to read as follows:
- "12-12-511. Investigation to be closed.
- 24 (a) If at any time before or during the investigation it is
- 25 determined that the alleged offender is not a caretaker of the alleged
- 26 victim any child, and the alleged victim has attained majority prior to
- 27 notification, the department's child maltreatment investigation shall be
- 28 closed notwithstanding any criminal investigation.
- 29 (b)(1) Any provision to the Arkansas Uniform Rules of Evidence
- 30 notwithstanding, any privilege between a minister and any person
- 31 confessing to or being counseled by the minister shall not constitute
- 32 grounds for excluding evidence at any dependency-neglect proceeding or
- 33 proceedings involving custody of a minor.
- 34 (2)(A) If at any time before or during the investigation it
- 35 appears that the offender is identified and is not a caretaker of the
- 36 victim child, the department shall:

- 1 (i) Refer the matter to the appropriate law enforcement agency;
- 2 (ii) Close its investigation; and
- 3 (iii) Forward a copy of its findings to the appropriate law
- 4 enforcement agency for that agency's further use in any criminal
- 5 investigation.
- 6 (B) If the alleged offender is a juvenile, but not a caretaker,
- 7 law enforcement may refer the matter to the department for
- 8 investigation.
- 9 (3)(A) If the appropriate law enforcement agency subsequently
- 10 determines that the offender is a caretaker, it shall immediately
- 11 notify the department of its determination.
- 12 (B) Thereupon the department shall reopen and continue its
- 13 investigation in compliance with all other requirements contained in
- 14 this subchapter.
- 15 (c) If at any time before or during the investigation the department is
- 16 unable to locate or identify the alleged offender because the alleged
- 17 maltreatment occurred more than five (5) years ago or in another state, the
- 18 department shall consider the report unable to be completed and placed in
- 19 inactive status."

- 21 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code 12-12-512 is amended to read as follows:
- 22 "12-12-512. Child Maltreatment Investigative determination Notice of
- 23 finding Amendment and appeal.
- 24 (a) Upon completion of the investigation the department shall
- 25 determine that the allegations of child maltreatment are:
- 26 (1) Unsubstantiated: This determination shall be entered when the
- 27 allegation is not supported by some credible evidence. There can be no
- 28 disclosure of unsubstantiated reports except for release to the
- 29 prosecutor for the limited purpose of prosecution of a person who
- 30 willfully makes false notification pursuant to this subchapter;
- 31 (2) True: This determination shall be entered when the allegation
- 32 is supported by some credible evidence.
- 33 (A) A determination of true shall not be entered when a parent,
- 34 practicing his religious beliefs, does not, for that reason alone,
- 35 provide medical treatment for a child, but in lieu of such treatment
- 36 the child is being furnished with treatment by spiritual means alone,

- 1 through prayer, in accordance with a recognized religious method of
- 2 healing by an accredited practitioner.
- 3 (B) Such prohibition shall not limit the administrative or
- 4 judicial authority of the state to ensure that medical services are
- 5 provided to the child when his health requires it. Notwithstanding subsection
- 6 (A), the department shall have the authority to pursue any legal remedies,
- 7 including the authority to initiate legal proceedings in a court of competent
- 8 jurisdiction, to provide medical care or treatment for a child when such care
- 9 or treatment is necessary to prevent or remedy serious harm to the child, or
- 10 to prevent the withholding of medically indicated treatment from child with
- 11 life threatening conditions. Except with respect to the withholding of
- 12 medically indicated treatments from disabled infants with life threatening
- 13 conditions, case by case determinations concerning the exercise of authority
- 14 of this subsection shall be within the sole discretion of the department.
- 15 (b) If the investigation cannot be completed, the investigation
- 16 shall be determined incomplete and placed in inactive status.
- 17 (c)(1)(A) In every case where a report is determined to be true,
- 18 the department shall notify each subject of the report of the
- 19 determination.
- 20 (B) Notification shall be in writing by hand delivery or by
- 21 certified mail, restricted delivery.
- 22 (C) Such notification shall include the following:
- 23 (i) The investigative determination, true or unsubstantiated,
- 24 exclusive of the source of the notification;
- 25 (ii) A statement that an adult offender subject of the true report may
- 26 request an administrative hearing;
- 27 (iii) A statement that such request must be made to the department
- 28 within thirty (30) days of receipt of the hand delivery or mailing of the
- 29 notice of determination; and
- 30 (iv) The name of the person making notification, his
- 31 occupation, and where he can be reached.
- 32 (2) The administrative hearing process must be completed within
- 33 ninety (90) days from the date of the receipt of the request for a
- 34 hearing.
- 35 (3) No action by appeal shall be brought more than two (2) years
- 36 after the completion of the investigation.

- 1 (4) When the department conducts such administrative appeal
- 2 hearings, the chief counsel of the department is authorized to require
- 3 the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, records, or
- 4 other documents through the issuance of subpoenas when such testimony
- 5 or information is necessary to adequately present the position of the
- 6 Department of Human Services, the investigating protective services
- 7 agency, or the alleged offender or adult subject of a report.
- 8 (d) Failure to obey the subpoena may be deemed a contempt, punishable
- 9 accordingly."

- 11 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code 12-12-514 is amended to read as follows:
- 12 "12-12-514. Child Maltreatment Investigative report.
- 13 (a) The department agency responsible for the investigation shall make
- 14 a complete written report of the investigation by the conclusion of the
- 15 thirty-day time period set forth in  $^{6}$  12-12-509(d) of this subchapter.
- 16 (b) The report shall include the following information:
- 17 (1) The names and addresses of the child and his legal parents
- 18 and other caretakers of the child, if known;
- 19 (2) The child's age, sex, and race;
- 20 (3) The nature and extent of the child's present and past
- 21 injuries;
- 22 (4) The investigative determination;
- 23 (5) The nature and extent of the child maltreatment, including
- 24 any evidence of previous injuries or child maltreatment to the child
- 25 or his siblings;
- 26 (6) The name and address of the person responsible for the
- 27 injuries or child maltreatment, if known;
- 28 (7) Services offered and accepted;
- 29 (8) Family composition;
- 30 (9) The source of the notification; and
- 31 (10) The person making the notification, his occupation, and
- 32 where he can be reached.
- 33 (c) A copy of the written report and any supporting documentation,
- 34 including statements from witnesses and transcripts of interviews, shall
- 35 immediately be filed at no cost with the appropriate law enforcement agency,
- 36 the prosecuting attorney's office, and the central registry. In the event the

- 1 investigation is not conducted by the department or its agents, the
- 2 responsible
- 3 investigator shall immediately file a copy of the report with the
- 4 department. Notification of the investigative determination shall be provided
- 5 to the appropriate law enforcement agency and prosecuting attorneys office
- 6 regarding reports of severe maltreatment.
- 7 (d) Notwithstanding any provision of this subchapter, the
- 8 department shall forward the investigative determination, exclusive of
- 9 the source of the notification, the name of the person making
- 10 notification, his occupation, and where he can be reached, to the
- 11 parents and alleged offender by hand delivery or by certified mail,
- 12 restricted delivery, addressed to the recipient's last known address.
- 13 (e) The report, exclusive of information identifying the person
- 14 making the notification, shall be admissible in evidence in any
- 15 proceeding related to child maltreatment."

- 17 SECTION 9. Arkansas Code 12-12-515 is amended to read as follows:
- 18 "12-12-515. Provision of information to person or agency making
- 19 initial notification of suspected maltreatment.
- 20 (a)(1) If the person or agency making the initial notification of
- 21 suspected child maltreatment is required to do so by this subchapter,
- 22 the department, within ten (10) business days of the child maltreatment
- 23 investigative determination, shall provide to the person the following
- 24 information:
- 25 (A) The investigative determination; and
- 26 (B) Services offered and provided.
- 27 (2) The department shall provide the local educational agency,
- 28 specifically to the school counselor where the maltreated child
- 29 attends school, a report indicating the department's founded
- 30 investigative determination regarding the child and the services
- 31 offered or provided by the department to the child.
- 32 (3) Any local educational agency receiving such information from
- 33 the department shall make this information, if it is a founded true report,
- 34 a part of the child's permanent educational record and shall treat
- 35 such information as educational records are treated under the Family
- 36 Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 8 1232g.

(b)(1) The department may provide information to a person or 2 agency that provides professional services such as medical examination 3 of, an assessment interview with, or diagnosing, caring for, treating, 4 or supervising a victim of maltreatment. (2) This information may include: (A) The investigative determination or the investigation 7 report; and 8 (B) The services offered and provided." 9 10 SECTION 10. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent 11 nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas 12 Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code. 13 14 SECTION 11. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to 15 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect 16 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without 17 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this 18 act are declared to be severable. 19 20 SECTION 12. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are 21 hereby repealed. 22 /s/Rep. Pollan 23 24 25 26 27 2.8 29 30 31 32 33 34