

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to law as it existed prior to the 82nd General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 82nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 1999  
4

As Engrossed: S3/18/99 S3/25/99

## A Bill

SENATE BILL 897

5 By: Senators Brown, K. Smith  
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### For An Act To Be Entitled

9 "TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE  
10 TO CONTRACT WITH OR PROVIDE GRANTS TO CHILDREN'S  
11 ADVOCACY CENTERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

### Subtitle

14 "TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS  
15 STATE POLICE TO CONTRACT WITH OR PROVIDE  
16 GRANTS TO CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS;  
17 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. "  
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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22 SECTION 1. (a) Currently, sexually abused children often have to  
23 describe their sexual abuse several times to different professionals at  
24 different locations. Many investigations are conducted with little  
25 collaboration between the agencies involved in the cases. Each agency's child  
26 abuse professionals are officed in a different facility and interface during  
27 the investigation and management of cases is limited. Sexual abuse medical  
28 examinations are commonly performed in hospital emergency rooms and other  
29 sites that are frightening to children, lack the proper equipment, and often  
30 are staffed by physicians uncomfortable with these exams. It is the intent of  
31 the General Assembly to institute pilot programs to provide the services just  
32 described under one roof and provide a more child-friendly atmosphere, less  
33 trauma to the children and families, improved investigations and management,  
34 more effective utilization of multi-agency information, greater protection of  
35 children, increased prosecution of perpetrators, and less unnecessary family  
36 intervention.

1 (b) In order to accomplish this goal, the Department of Arkansas State  
2 Police is hereby authorized to utilize moneys appropriated for its maintenance  
3 and general operation to make grants to and to contract with Children's  
4 Advocacy Centers for facilities and services.

5 (c) The Arkansas Child Abuse/Rape/Domestic Violence Commission shall  
6 advise the department as to Children's Advocacy Centers which qualify for  
7 grants or contracts from the department. Qualified Children's Advocacy  
8 Centers should:

9 (1) Provide a child-friendly, comfortable place for interviewing  
10 children and families, examining the children, and initiating services;

11 (2) Provide crisis intervention for the child and family as well  
12 as appropriate referrals for psychological treatment if not available on site;  
13 and

14 (3) Provide offices for law enforcement, employees of the  
15 Department of Human Services, and health care professionals in order to  
16 deliver collaborative evaluations and services.

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18 SECTION 2. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to  
19 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect  
20 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without  
21 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
22 act are declared to be severable.

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24 SECTION 3. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are  
25 hereby repealed.

26 /s/ Brown  
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