

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.

1 State of Arkansas
2 83rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2001
4

As Engrossed: S2/6/01
A Bill

SENATE BILL 346

5 By: Senator Wooldridge
6 By: Representative Boyd
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8

9 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

10 *AN ACT TO AMEND VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE*
11 *TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE ARKANSAS STATE POLICE FAMILY*
12 *PROTECTION UNIT TO THE CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN*
13 *DIVISION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*
14

15 **Subtitle**

16 *AN ACT TO AMEND VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE*
17 *ARKANSAS CODE TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE*
18 *ARKANSAS STATE POLICE FAMILY PROTECTION*
19 *UNIT TO THE CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN*
20 *DIVISION.*
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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 12-8-106(c), concerning duties of the Arkansas
26 State Police, is amended to read as follows:

27 (c) The Department of Arkansas State Police shall have the authority to
28 establish a ~~Family Protection Unit~~ Crimes Against Children Division, either
29 through transfer or by contract, to conduct child abuse investigations, to
30 administer the child abuse hotline, and, when consistent with regulations
31 promulgated by the Department of Arkansas State Police, to provide training
32 and technical assistance to local law enforcement in conducting child abuse
33 investigations.
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35 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code 12-8-501, concerning the Arkansas State Police
36 Family Protection Unit, is amended to read as follows:

1 12-8-501. Legislative intent.

2 The General Assembly recognizes that the state has a responsibility to

3 provide competent and thorough child abuse investigations which are sensitive

4 to the needs of children and families; that it is difficult for caseworkers

5 with the ~~Division of Youth Services of the~~ Department of Human Services, which

6 is currently charged with the responsibilities of investigating child abuse

7 and providing services to children and families, to separate their dual roles

8 as investigators and service providers; that many studies show that child

9 abuse investigations are compromised when these very different functions are

10 not separated; that child abuse is a crime and suspected child abuse should be

11 investigated with due diligence by trained law enforcement officers.

12 Therefore, it is declared to be the intent of this General Assembly to

13 authorize the Department of Arkansas State Police to create a ~~Family~~

14 ~~Protection Unit~~ Crimes Against Children Division, either through transfer or

15 by contract, to conduct investigations into severe child abuse as defined by

16 interagency agreement and to administer the child abuse hotline.

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18 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code 12-8-502, concerning the Arkansas State Police

19 Family Protection Unit, is amended to read as follows:

20 12-8-502. Transfer of powers and duties - Sections of unit - Sharing of

21 information.

22 (a) When the powers and duties of the Department of Human Services in

23 regard to the child abuse hotline and child abuse investigations are

24 transferred to the Department of Arkansas State Police, or when the Department

25 of Human Services and the Department of Arkansas State Police contract for the

26 administration of the child abuse hotline or for the Department of Arkansas

27 State Police to conduct child abuse investigations or both, the Department of

28 Arkansas State Police shall establish a ~~Family Protection Unit~~ Crimes Against

29 Children Division.

30 (b) The ~~Family Protection Unit~~ Crimes Against Children Division shall

31 consist of three (3) sections:

32 (1) The Law Enforcement Child Abuse Section, which shall be

33 staffed with law enforcement personnel and shall be responsible for the

34 investigation of allegations that initially appear to involve severe child

35 abuse or any other types of criminal child abuse;

36 (2) The Child and Family Protection Section, which shall be

1 staffed with non-law enforcement personnel and shall be responsible for the
2 investigation of allegations of child abuse that initially do not appear to
3 involve severe abuse or the need for a criminal investigation but have
4 implications of criminal activity involving child abuse; and

5 (3) The Child Abuse Hotline Section, which shall administer
6 twenty-four-hour toll-free in-watts telephone services to report to the
7 Department of Arkansas State Police information regarding possible incidents
8 of child abuse.

9 (c)(1) The ~~Family Protection Unit~~ Crimes Against Children Division
10 shall develop and maintain statewide statistics regarding the incidence of
11 child abuse.

12 (2) Each county and city law enforcement agency conducting child
13 abuse investigations through referral from the child abuse hotline shall
14 report the status and disposition of these investigations to the ~~Family~~
15 ~~Protection Unit~~ Crimes Against Children Division on a monthly basis.

16 (d)(1) If the powers and duties of the Department of Human Services in
17 regard to the child abuse hotline and child abuse investigations are
18 transferred to the Department of Arkansas State Police, the ~~Family Protection~~
19 ~~Unit~~ Crimes Against Children Division of the Department of Arkansas State
20 Police and the ~~Division of Youth Services of the~~ Department of Human Services
21 shall enter into a memorandum of understanding that shall include provisions
22 that address the sharing of information reported to the child abuse hotline
23 with the ~~Division of Youth Services~~ Department of Human Services when such
24 information is necessary for the division to provide appropriate service
25 delivery to children and families.

26 (2) If the Department of Human Services and the Department of
27 Arkansas State Police contract for the administration of the child abuse
28 hotline or for the Department of Arkansas State Police to conduct child abuse
29 investigations, or both, the contract shall include provisions that address
30 the sharing of information reported to the child abuse hotline with the
31 ~~Division of Youth Services~~ Department of Human Services when such information
32 is necessary for the division to provide appropriate service delivery to
33 children and families.

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35 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code 29-30-148(5), concerning membership of the
36 Arkansas Crime Victims Advisory Board, is amended to read as follows:

1 (5) A representative of the ~~Family Protection Unit~~ Crimes Against
2 Children Division of the Arkansas State Police;

3 /s/ Wool dridge
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