

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 85th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2005

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 100

4  
5 By: Senator Salmon  
6 By: Representative S. Prater

## For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE MEANING OF NEGLECT UNDER  
11 THE ADULT MALTREATMENT ACT; TO REQUIRE THAT  
12 REPORTS OF ADULT MALTREATMENT BE MADE WITHIN  
13 TWENTY-FOUR (24) HOURS; TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR  
14 FAILURE TO PROPERLY REPORT ADULT MALTREATMENT; TO  
15 AMEND THE ADULT MALTREATMENT ACT; TO ESTABLISH A  
16 PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO REPORT DEATHS CAUSED BY  
17 ADULT MALTREATMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

18  
19 AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE ADULT MALTREATMENT  
20 ACT.  
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 5-28-101(10), defining the term "neglect"  
27 for purposes of the adult maltreatment act, is amended to read as follows:

28 (10) "Neglect" means acts or omissions ~~by an endangered adult,~~  
29 ~~for example, self neglect or intentional acts or omissions~~ by a caregiver  
30 responsible for the care and supervision of an endangered or impaired adult  
31 constituting:

32 (A) Negligently failing to provide necessary treatment,  
33 rehabilitation, care, food, clothing, shelter, supervision, or medical  
34 services to an endangered or impaired adult;

35 (B) Negligently failing to report health problems or  
36 changes in health problems or changes in the health condition of an



1 endangered or impaired adult to the appropriate medical personnel; or

2 (C) Negligently failing to carry out a prescribed  
3 treatment plan;

4 (D) Failing to provide goods and services necessary to  
5 avoid physical harm, mental anguish, or mental illness as defined in  
6 regulations promulgated by the Office of Long-Term Care of the Division of  
7 Medical Services of the Department of Human Services to an adult resident of  
8 a long-term care facility;

9  
10 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 5-28-203 is amended to read as follows:

11 5-28-203. Persons required to report adult maltreatment -- Penalty.

12 (a)(1) Whenever any of the following has observed or has reasonable  
13 cause to suspect that an endangered or impaired adult has been subjected to  
14 conditions or circumstances which would reasonably result in adult  
15 maltreatment, as defined in this chapter, he or she shall immediately report  
16 or cause a report to be made in accordance with the provisions of this  
17 section:

18 (A) A physician;

19 (B) A surgeon;

20 (C) A coroner;

21 (D) A dentist;

22 (E) An osteopath;

23 (F) A resident intern;

24 (G) A nurse;

25 (H) Hospital personnel who are engaged in the  
26 administration, examination, care, or treatment of persons;

27 (I) Any social worker;

28 (J) A case manager;

29 (K) A case worker;

30 (L) A mental health professional;

31 (M) A peace officer;

32 (N) A law enforcement officer;

33 (O) A facility administrator;

34 (P) An employee in a facility;

35 (Q) An employee of the Department of Human Services;

36 (R) A firefighter;

- 1 (S) An emergency medical technician; or
- 2 (T) An employee of a bank or other financial institution.

3 (2) Whenever a person is required to report under this chapter  
 4 in his or her capacity as a member of the staff, an employee in a facility,  
 5 or an employee of the department, he or she shall immediately notify the  
 6 person in charge of the institution, facility, or agency, or that person's  
 7 designated agent, who shall then become responsible for making a report or  
 8 cause a report to be made within twenty-four (24) hours.

9 (3) In addition to those persons and officials required to  
 10 report suspected maltreatment, any other person may make a report if the  
 11 person has reasonable cause to suspect that an adult has been maltreated, as  
 12 defined in this chapter.

13 (b)(1) A report for maltreated adults residing in a long-term care  
 14 facility shall be made:

15 (A) Immediately to the local law enforcement agency for  
 16 the jurisdiction in which the facility is located; and

17 (B) To the Office of Long-Term Care of the Division of  
 18 Medical Services of the Department of Human Services, pursuant to regulations  
 19 of that office.

20 (2) Reports of maltreated adults who do not reside in a long-  
 21 term care facility shall be made to the adult maltreatment hotline.

22 (c) No privilege or contract shall relieve anyone required by this  
 23 subchapter to make notification of the requirement of making notification.

24 (d) Any person required by this chapter to report adult maltreatment  
 25 who knowingly fails to make a report in the manner and time provided in this  
 26 chapter is guilty of a Class C misdemeanor and shall be punished as provided  
 27 by law.

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 29 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 5-28-204 is amended to read as follows:  
 30 5-28-204. Report of death caused by maltreatment -- Penalty.

31 (a)(1) Any person or official who is required to report cases of  
 32 suspected maltreatment of adults under the provisions of this chapter and who  
 33 has reasonable cause to suspect that an adult has died as a result of  
 34 maltreatment shall report that fact to the appropriate medical examiner or  
 35 coroner.

36 (2)(A) In all cases of the death of a long-term care facility

1 resident or a hospice facility resident, the long-term care facility or the  
2 hospice facility shall immediately report the death to the appropriate  
3 coroner.

4 (B) The report is required regardless of whether the  
5 facility believes the death to be from natural causes or the result of  
6 maltreatment or any other cause.

7 (3)(A) In all cases of the death of an individual in a hospital  
8 who was a resident of a long-term care facility within five (5) days of  
9 entering the hospital, the hospital shall immediately report the death to the  
10 appropriate coroner.

11 (B) The report is required regardless of whether the  
12 hospital believes the death to be from natural causes or the result of  
13 maltreatment or any other cause.

14 (b)(1) The medical examiner or coroner shall accept the report for  
15 investigation and, upon finding reasonable cause to suspect that an adult has  
16 died as a result of maltreatment, shall report the findings to the police and  
17 the appropriate prosecuting attorney.

18 (2) If the institution making the report is a hospital or  
19 nursing home, the coroner shall report the findings to the hospital or  
20 nursing home unless the findings are part of a pending or ongoing law  
21 enforcement investigation.

22 (c) The medical examiner, coroner, or hospital shall also report the  
23 findings to the Department of Human Services when:

24 (1) Reasonable cause exists to believe the death resulted from  
25 maltreatment of an adult; or

26 (2) There is a pending investigation concerning allegations of  
27 maltreatment occurring prior to death, upon request of the department.

28 (d) Any person required by this chapter to report deaths caused by  
29 maltreatment who knowingly fails to make a report in the manner and time  
30 provided in this chapter is guilty of a Class C misdemeanor and shall be  
31 punished as provided by law.

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