

1 State of Arkansas  
2 88th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2011  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1787

5 By: Representative G. Smith  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE CIRCUIT COURTS TO ORDER MENTAL  
9 HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED  
10 ADULTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

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13 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE CIRCUIT COURTS TO  
14 ORDER MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE  
15 CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED ADULTS.  
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 9, Chapter 25, Subchapter 1 is amended  
22 to add an additional section to read as follows:

23 9-25-105. Mental health evaluations of children of incarcerated  
24 adults.

25 (a) As used in this section, "mental health services" means  
26 assessment, diagnosis, treatment, or counseling in a professional  
27 relationship to assist an individual in:

28 (1) Alleviating mental or emotional illness, symptoms,  
29 conditions, or disorders, including alcohol or drug addiction;

30 (2) Understanding conscious or subconscious motivations;

31 (3) Resolving emotional, attitudinal, or relationship conflicts;

32 (4) Modifying feelings, attitudes, or behaviors that interfere  
33 with effective emotional, social, or intellectual functioning; or

34 (5) Assessment of learning disabilities or environmental  
35 impediments to learning.

36 (b) This section is intended to provide preventative mental health



1 services for children of incarcerated adults to keep the children from  
2 becoming second-generation offenders.

3 (c)(1) A circuit court may order a child of an incarcerated adult to  
4 undergo mental health services.

5 (2) The court shall receive and assess progress reports  
6 concerning the mental health services ordered under subdivision (c)(1) of  
7 this section.

8 (3) The court shall release the child from mental health  
9 services under subdivision (c)(1) of this section at the earliest time  
10 consistent with the best interests of the child.

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