

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2013

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1447

4
5 By: Representative Fite
6 By: Senator Hester
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE CHILD MALTREATMENT ACT; AND FOR
10 OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

12
13 TO AMEND THE CHILD MALTREATMENT ACT.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Findings and purposes.

20 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

21 (1) Children are increasingly being preyed upon, victimized, and
22 coerced into illegal sexual relationships by adults;

23 (2) The Child Maltreatment Act, § 12-18-101 et seq., requires
24 caretakers, healthcare facilities, healthcare providers, teachers, and other
25 specified individuals to report suspected incidents of sexual crimes against
26 children;

27 (3) The physical, emotional, developmental, and psychological
28 impact of sexual crimes on child victims can be severe and long-lasting;

29 (4) The societal costs of these crimes are also significant and
30 affect the entire populace;

31 (5) The collection, maintenance, and preservation of evidence,
32 including forensic tissue samples, furthers Arkansas's interest in protecting
33 children from sexual crimes and provides the state with the tools necessary
34 for successful investigations and prosecutions;

35 (6) Parents and guardians have both the right and responsibility
36 to be involved in medical treatment decisions involving their children, and



1 no one has the right to knowingly or willfully impede or circumvent this
2 right;

3 (7)(A) There are documented cases of individuals other than a
4 parent or guardian aiding, abetting, and assisting minor girls to procure
5 abortions without their parents' or guardians' knowledge, consent, or
6 involvement.

7 (B) These activities of individuals other than a parent or
8 guardian include transporting children across state lines to avoid Arkansas's
9 parental involvement requirements for abortion; and

10 (8) Such actions violate both the sanctity of the familial
11 relationship and Arkansas's parental involvement law concerning abortion.

12 (b) The General Assembly's purposes in enacting the Child Maltreatment
13 Act are to further the important and compelling state interests of:

14 (1) Protecting children from sexually predatory adults;

15 (2) Ensuring that adults who are involved in illegal sexual
16 relationships or contact with children are reported, investigated, and, when
17 warranted, prosecuted;

18 (3)(A) Relieving medical professionals and other mandatory
19 reporters of suspected sexual crimes against children from any responsibility
20 to personally investigate an allegation or suspicion.

21 (B) Mandatory reporters must simply report allegations,
22 suspensions, and pertinent facts.

23 (C) Trained law enforcement or social services personnel
24 are responsible for any investigation and for the ultimate disposition of the
25 allegation or case;

26 (4) Reducing the physical, emotional, developmental, and
27 psychological impact of sexual crimes on child victims;

28 (5) Reducing the societal and economic burden on the populace
29 that results from sexual crimes against children;

30 (6) Providing law enforcement officials with the tools and
31 evidence necessary to investigate and prosecute child predators; and

32 (7) Protecting and respecting the right of parents and guardians
33 to be involved in the medical decisions and treatment of their children and
34 preventing anyone from knowingly or willfully subverting or circumventing
35 these rights.

1 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 12-18-103, concerning definitions for the
2 Child Maltreatment Act, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read
3 as follows:

4 (2)(A) "Abortion" means the act of using or prescribing any
5 instrument, medicine, drug, or any other substance, device, or means with the
6 intent to terminate the clinically diagnosable pregnancy of a woman with
7 knowledge that the termination by those means will with reasonable likelihood
8 cause the death of the unborn child.

9 (B) "Abortion" does not mean the act of using or
10 prescribing any instrument, medicine, drug, or any other substance, device,
11 or means with the intent to terminate the clinically diagnosable pregnancy if
12 done with the intent to:

13 (i) Save the life or preserve the health of the
14 unborn child;

15 (ii) Remove a dead unborn child caused by
16 spontaneous abortion; or

17 (iii) Remove an ectopic pregnancy.

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19 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 12-18-103, concerning definitions for the
20 Child Maltreatment Act, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read
21 as follows:

22 (17) "Reproductive healthcare facility" means any office,
23 clinic, or any other physical location that provides abortions, abortion
24 counseling, abortion referrals, contraceptives, contraceptive counseling, sex
25 education, or gynecological care and services;

26
27 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 12-18-103(18), concerning definitions for
28 the Child Maltreatment Act, is amended to read as follows:

29 (E) By a person younger than ~~thirteen (13)~~ fifteen (15)
30 years of age to a person younger than eighteen (18) years of age:

31 (i) Sexual intercourse, deviate sexual activity, or
32 sexual contact by forcible compulsion; or

33 (ii) Attempted sexual intercourse, deviate sexual
34 activity, or sexual contact by forcible compulsion;

35
36 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code Title 12, Chapter 18, Subchapter 1, is

1 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

2 12-18-108. Maintenance of forensic samples from abortions performed on
3 a child.

4 (a)(1) A physician who performs an abortion on a child who is less
5 than fourteen (14) years of age at the time of the abortion shall preserve
6 under this subchapter fetal tissue extracted during the abortion in
7 accordance with rules adopted by the office of the Attorney General.

8 (2) The physician shall submit the tissue to the State Crime
9 Laboratory.

10 (b) The Attorney General shall adopt rules prescribing:

11 (1) The amount and type of fetal tissue to be preserved and
12 submitted by a physician under this section;

13 (2) Procedures for the proper preservation of the tissue for the
14 purpose of DNA testing and examination;

15 (3) Procedures for documenting the chain of custody of the
16 tissue for use as evidence;

17 (4) Procedures for proper disposal of fetal tissue preserved
18 under this section;

19 (5) A uniform reporting instrument mandated to be utilized by
20 physicians when submitting fetal tissue under this section which shall
21 include the name and address of the physician submitting the fetal tissue and
22 the name and complete address of residence of the parent or legal guardian of
23 the child upon whom the abortion was performed; and

24 (6) Procedures for communication with law enforcement agencies
25 regarding evidence and information obtained under this section.

26 (c) Failure of a physician to comply with this section or any rule
27 adopted under this section:

28 (1) Shall constitute unprofessional conduct under the Arkansas
29 Medical Practices Act § 17-95-201 et seq.; and

30 (2) For a first offense, is a Class B misdemeanor; and

31 (3) For a second or subsequent offense, is a Class A
32 misdemeanor.

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34 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code Title 12, Chapter 18, Subchapter 2, is
35 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

36 12-18-210. Prohibition on intentionally causing, aiding, abetting, or

1 assisting a child to obtain an abortion without parental consent.

2 (a) A person shall not intentionally cause, aid, or assist a child to
3 obtain an abortion without the consent or notification under § 20-16-801.

4 (b)(1) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section shall be
5 civilly liable to the child and to the person or persons required to give the
6 consent under § 20-16-801.

7 (2) A court may award:

8 (A) Damages to the person or persons adversely affected by
9 a violation of subsection (a) of this section, including compensation for
10 emotional injury without the need for personal presence at the act or event;
11 and

12 (B) Attorneys' fees, litigation costs, and punitive
13 damages.

14 (3) An adult who engages in or consents to another person
15 engaging in a sexual act with a child in violation of the Arkansas Criminal
16 Code § 5-1-101, that results in the child's pregnancy, shall not be awarded
17 damages under this section.

18 (c) It is not a defense to a claim brought under this section that the
19 abortion was performed or induced pursuant to consent to the abortion given
20 in a manner that is otherwise lawful in the state or place where the abortion
21 was performed or induced.

22 (d) An unemancipated child does not have capacity to consent to any
23 action in violation of this section.

24 (e) Upon a petition by the Attorney General, a prosecuting attorney,
25 or any person adversely affected or who reasonably may be adversely affected
26 by the conduct, a court of competent jurisdiction may enjoin conduct that
27 would violate this section upon a showing that the conduct:

28 (1) Is reasonably anticipated to occur in the future; or

29 (2) Has occurred in the past, whether with the same child or
30 others, and that it is not unreasonable to expect that the conduct will be
31 repeated.

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33 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 12-18-402(b), concerning mandated reporters
34 for the Child Maltreatment Act, is amended to add two additional subdivisions
35 to read as follows:

36 (38) An employee of a reproductive healthcare facility; and

1 (39) A volunteer at a reproductive healthcare facility.

2
3 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code Title 12, Chapter 18, is amended to add an
4 additional subchapter to read as follows:

5 12-18-1203. Mandated reporter requirements.

6 Within ten (10) days after calling the hotline, a mandated reporter
7 shall report in writing each instance of alleged or suspected abuse, sexual
8 abuse, or sexual crimes against a child to the appropriate law enforcement or
9 designated state agencies.