

**Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 7, 2003**

SENATE BILL NO. 2271
(Senator J. Lee)
(Representative Price)

AN ACT to create and enact three new sections to chapter 50-25.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to prenatal testing and reporting; and to amend and reenact section 50-25.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to child abuse and neglect reporting requirements.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 50-25.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

50-25.1-02. Definitions.

1. "A person responsible for the child's welfare" means the child's parent, guardian, or foster parent; an employee of a public or private school or nonresidential child care facility; an employee of a public or private residential home, institution, or agency; or a person responsible for the child's welfare in a residential setting.
2. "Abuse of alcohol", "alcohol abuse", or "abused alcohol" means alcohol abuse or dependence as defined in the current diagnostic and statistical manual published by the American psychiatric association or a maladaptive use of alcohol with negative medical, sociological, occupational, or familial effects.
3. "Abused child" means an individual under the age of eighteen years who is suffering from serious physical harm or traumatic abuse caused by other than accidental means by a person responsible for the child's welfare, or who is suffering from or was subjected to any act involving that individual in violation of sections 12.1-20-01 through 12.1-20-08.
- ~~3.~~ 4. "Assessment" means a factfinding process designed to provide information that enables a determination to be made that services are required to provide for the protection and treatment of an abused or neglected child.
- ~~4.~~ 5. "Department" means the department of human services or its designee.
- ~~5.~~ 6. "Harm" means negative changes in a child's health which occur when a person responsible for the child's welfare:
 - a. Inflicts, or allows to be inflicted, upon the child, physical or mental injury, including injuries sustained as a result of excessive corporal punishment; or
 - b. Commits, allows to be committed, or conspires to commit, against the child, a sex offense as defined in chapter 12.1-20.
- ~~6.~~ 7. "Institutional child abuse or neglect" means situations of known or suspected child abuse or neglect where the person responsible for the child's welfare is an employee of a residential child care facility, a treatment or care center for mentally retarded, a public or private residential educational facility, a maternity home, or any residential facility owned or managed by the state or a political subdivision of the state.
- ~~7.~~ 8. "Local child protection team" means a multidisciplinary team consisting of the designee of the director of the regional human service center, together with such other representatives as that director might select for the team with the consent of the director of the county

social service board. All team members, at the time of their selection and thereafter, must be staff members of the public or private agencies they represent or shall serve without remuneration. An attorney member of the child protection team may not be appointed to represent the child or the parents at any subsequent court proceeding nor may the child protection team be composed of fewer than three members. The department shall coordinate the organization of local child protection teams on a county or multicounty basis.

- ~~8.~~ 9. "Neglected child" means a deprived child as defined in chapter 27-20.
- ~~9.~~ 10. "Prenatal exposure to a controlled substance" means use of a controlled substance as defined in chapter 19-03.1 by a pregnant woman for a nonmedical purpose during pregnancy as evidenced by withdrawal symptoms in the child at birth, results of a toxicology test performed on the mother at delivery of the child at birth, or medical effects or developmental delays during the child's first year of life that medically indicate prenatal exposure to a controlled substance.
- 11. "Protective services" includes services performed after an assessment of a report of child abuse or neglect has been conducted, such as social assessment, service planning, implementation of service plans, treatment services, referral services, coordination with referral sources, progress assessment, monitoring service delivery, and direct services.
- ~~10.~~ 12. "State child protection team" means a multidisciplinary team consisting of the designee of the department and, where possible of a physician, a representative of a child-placing agency, a representative of the state department of health, a representative of the attorney general, a representative of the superintendent of public instruction, a representative of the department of corrections and rehabilitation, one or more representatives of the lay community, and, as an ad hoc member, the designee of the chief executive official of any institution named in a report of institutional abuse or neglect. All team members, at the time of their selection and thereafter, must be staff members of the public or private agency they represent or shall serve without remuneration. An attorney member of the child protection team may not be appointed to represent the child or the parents at any subsequent court proceeding nor may the child protection team be composed of fewer than three persons.

SECTION 2. A new section to chapter 50-25.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Prenatal exposure to controlled substances - Reporting requirements.

- 1. An individual required to report under section 50-25.1-03 who has knowledge of or reasonable cause to suspect that a woman is pregnant and has used a controlled substance for a nonmedical purpose during the pregnancy shall report the circumstances to the department if the knowledge or suspicion is derived from information received by that individual in that individual's official or professional capacity.
- 2. Any individual may make a voluntary report if the individual has knowledge of or reasonable cause to suspect that a woman is pregnant and has used a controlled substance for a nonmedical purpose during the pregnancy.
- 3. If a report alleges a pregnant woman's use of a controlled substance for a nonmedical purpose, the department or its designee shall immediately initiate an appropriate assessment and offer services indicated under the circumstances. Services offered may include a referral for chemical dependency assessment, a referral for chemical dependency treatment if recommended, or a referral for prenatal care. The department or its designee may also take any appropriate action under chapter 25-03.1.

4. A report and assessment under this section is not required if the pregnant woman voluntarily enters treatment in a licensed treatment program. If the pregnant woman does not complete voluntary treatment or fails to follow treatment recommendations, an individual required to report under section 50-25.1-03 who has knowledge of the failure to complete voluntary treatment or failure to follow treatment recommendations shall make a report as required by this section.
5. A report under this section must be made as described in section 50-25.1-04 and must be sufficient to identify the woman, the nature and extent of use, if known, and the name and address of the individual making the report.

SECTION 3. A new section to chapter 50-25.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Toxicology testing - Requirements.

1. If the woman has obstetrical complications that are a medical indication of possible use of a controlled substance for a nonmedical purpose, upon the consent of the pregnant woman, or without consent if a specimen is otherwise available, a physician shall administer a toxicology test to a pregnant woman under the physician's care or to a woman under the physician's care within eight hours after delivery to determine whether there is evidence that she has ingested a controlled substance. If the test results are positive, the physician shall report the results under section 50-25.1-03.1. A negative test result or the pregnant woman's refusal to consent to a test does not eliminate the obligation to report under section 50-25.1-03 if other evidence gives the physician reason to believe the patient has used a controlled substance for a nonmedical purpose.
2. If a physician has reason to believe based on a medical assessment of the mother or the infant that the mother used a controlled substance for a nonmedical purpose during the pregnancy, the physician shall administer, without the consent of the child's parents or guardian, to the newborn infant born under the physician's care a toxicology test to determine whether there is evidence of prenatal exposure to a controlled substance. If the test results are positive, the physician shall report the results as neglect under section 50-25.1-03. A negative test result does not eliminate the obligation to report under section 50-25.1-03 if other medical evidence of prenatal exposure to a controlled substance is present.
3. A physician or any other medical personnel administering a toxicology test to determine the presence of a controlled substance in a pregnant woman, in a woman within eight hours after delivery, or in a child at birth or during the first month of life is immune from civil or criminal liability arising from administration of the test if the physician ordering the test believes in good faith that the test is required under this section and the test is administered in accordance with an established protocol and reasonable medical practice. A physician or any other medical personnel who determines in good faith not to administer a toxicology test under this section is immune from liability for not administering the test.

SECTION 4. A new section to chapter 50-25.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Prenatal exposure to alcohol abuse - Reporting requirements.

1. An individual required to report under section 50-25.1-03 who has knowledge of or reasonable cause to suspect that a woman is pregnant and has abused alcohol after the woman knows of the pregnancy may:
 - a. Arrange for a chemical dependency assessment conducted by a licensed treatment program and confirm that the recommendations indicated by the assessment are followed; or

- b. Immediately report the circumstances to the department if the knowledge or suspicion is derived from information received by that individual in that individual's official or professional capacity.
- 2. An individual may make a voluntary report if the individual has knowledge of or reasonable cause to suspect that a woman is pregnant and has abused alcohol during the pregnancy.
- 3. If the woman is referred for a chemical dependency assessment under subdivision a of subsection 1 and fails to obtain an assessment or refuses to comply with the recommendations of the assessment, an individual required to report under section 50-25.1-03 who has knowledge of the failure to obtain the assessment or refusal to comply with recommendations of the assessment shall make a report to the department.
- 4. If a report alleges a pregnant woman has abused alcohol, the department or its designee shall immediately initiate an appropriate assessment and offer services indicated under the circumstances. Services offered may include a referral for chemical dependency assessment, a referral for chemical dependency treatment, if recommended, or a referral for prenatal care. The department or its designee may also take any appropriate action under chapter 25-03.1.
- 5. A report and assessment under this section is not required if the pregnant woman voluntarily enters treatment in a licensed treatment program. If the pregnant woman does not complete voluntary treatment or fails to follow treatment recommendations, an individual required to report under section 50-25.1-03 who has knowledge of the failure to complete voluntary treatment or failure to follow treatment recommendations shall make a report as required by this section.
- 6. A report under this section must be made as described in section 50-25.1-04 and must be sufficient to identify the woman, the nature and extent of the abuse of alcohol, any health risk associated with the abuse of alcohol, and the name and address of the individual making the report.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2271.

Senate Vote: Yeas 46 Nays 0 Absent 1

House Vote: Yeas 94 Nays 0 Absent 0

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2003.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2003.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2003,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State