

**Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 7, 2025**

SENATE BILL NO. 2173  
(Senators Lee, Cleary, Larson)  
(Representatives Beltz, Ista, Jonas)

AN ACT to amend and reenact subsection 10 of section 50-25.1-02 and section 50-25.1-11.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the definition of a children's advocacy center and the confidentiality of communications and records in the possession of a children's advocacy center.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 10 of section 50-25.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

10. "Children's advocacy center" means ~~a full~~ an accredited or associate member of the national children's alliance which assists in the coordination of the investigation in response to allegations of child abuse by providing a dedicated child-friendly location at which to conduct forensic interviews, forensic medical examinations, and other appropriate services and which promotes a comprehensive multidisciplinary team response to allegations of child abuse. The team response may include forensic interviews, forensic medical examinations, mental health and related support services, advocacy, and case review.

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-25.1-11.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**50-25.1-11.1. Children's advocacy centers - Confidentiality of records - Criminal history record checks.**

1. Records and digital media in the possession of a children's advocacy center relating to a forensic medical examination, forensic interview, advocacy, or therapy are confidential and only may be released ~~only~~ to a person other than a law enforcement agency, the department or the department's authorized agent, a prosecutor, a court, another children's advocacy center, or a medical or mental health professional when the child comes before the medical or mental health professional in that person's professional capacity, upon service of a subpoena signed by a judge.
2. The staff of a children's advocacy center may communicate with a law enforcement agency, the department or the department's authorized agent, a prosecutor, a court, another children's advocacy center, or a medical or mental health professional in that individual's official capacity, for the purpose of discussing a forensic medical examination, forensic interview, advocacy, or therapy.
3. The department may submit a request for a criminal history record check under section 12-60-24 on a board member, an employee, a final applicant for employment of a children's advocacy center, a contractor, or a volunteer of a children's advocacy center who has contact with a child at or through a children's advocacy center.
- ~~3.4.~~ As used in this section, "board member" means an individual serving on the board of a children's advocacy center.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

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Secretary of the Senate

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Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2173.

Senate Vote:    Yeas 46            Nays 0            Absent 1

House Vote:    Yeas 89            Nays 0            Absent 5

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Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

Approved at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025,

at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State