

Introduced by

Human Services Committee

(At the request of the Department of Human Services)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 3 of section 50-25.1-02 and section
2 50-25.1-11 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the definition of a sexually abused
3 child and to who may receive confidential reports of child abuse and neglect.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 3 of section 50-25.1-02 of the North Dakota
6 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

7 3. "Abused child" means an individual under the age of eighteen years who is
8 suffering from abuse as defined in subdivision a of subsection 1 of section
9 14-09-22 caused by a person responsible for the child's welfare and "sexually
10 abused child" means an individual under the age of eighteen years who is
11 subjected by a person responsible for the child's welfare ~~to any act, or by any~~
12 individual who acts in violation of sections 12.1-20-01 through 12.1-20-07, sections
13 12.1-20-11 through 12.1-20-12.2, or chapter 12.1-27.2.

14 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-25.1-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is
15 amended and reenacted as follows:

16 **50-25.1-11. Confidentiality of records - Authorized disclosures.** ~~All reports~~ A
17 report made under this chapter, as well as any other information obtained, ~~are~~ is confidential
18 and must be made available to:

- 19 1. A physician who has before the physician a child whom the physician reasonably
20 suspects may have been abused or neglected.
- 21 2. A person who is authorized to place a child in protective custody and has before
22 the person a child whom the person reasonably suspects may have been abused
23 or neglected and the person requires the information ~~in order~~ to determine whether
24 to place the child in protective custody.

- 1 3. Authorized staff of the department and its authorized agents, children's advocacy
2 centers, and appropriate state and local child protection team members, and
3 citizen review committee members.
- 4 4. Any person who is the subject of a the report; provided, however, that the identity
5 of persons reporting or supplying information under this chapter is protected until
6 the information is needed for use in an administrative proceeding arising out of the
7 report.
- 8 5. Public officials and their authorized agents who require the information in
9 connection with the discharge of their official duties.
- 10 6. A court, including an administrative hearing office, whenever the court determines
11 that the information is necessary for the determination of an issue before the court.
- 12 7. A person engaged in a bona fide research purpose; provided, however, that no
13 individually identifiable information ~~identifying the subjects of a report as defined in~~
14 section 50-06-15 is made available to the researcher unless the information is
15 absolutely essential to the research purpose and the department gives prior
16 approval.
- 17 8. A person who is identified in subsection 1 of section 50-25.1-03, and who has
18 made a report of suspected child abuse or neglect, if the child is likely to or
19 continues to come before the reporter in the reporter's official or professional
20 capacity.
- 21 9. ~~Parents~~ A parent or a legally appointed guardian of a the child ~~who is identified in~~
22 the report as suspected of being, or having been, abused or neglected, provided
23 the identity of persons making ~~reports~~ the report or supplying information under
24 this chapter is protected. Unless the information is confidential under section
25 44-04-18.7, when a decision is made under section 50-25.1-05.1 that services are
26 required to provide for the protection and treatment of an abused or neglected
27 child, the department shall make a good-faith effort to provide written notice of the
28 decision to persons identified in this subsection. The department shall consider
29 any known domestic violence when providing notification under this section.