REFERENCE TITLE: clergy; priests; duty to report.

State of Arizona House of Representatives Fifty-sixth Legislature Second Regular Session 2024

HB 2712

Introduced by Representative Travers

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 8-201, 12-2233 AND 13-3620, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO THE DUTY TO REPORT.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

- i -

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona: Section 1. Section 8-201, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

8-201. <u>Definitions</u>

In this title, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 1. "Abandoned" means the failure of the parent to provide reasonable support and to maintain regular contact with the child, including providing normal supervision. Abandoned includes a judicial finding that a parent has made only minimal efforts to support and communicate with the child. Failure to maintain a normal parental relationship with the child without just cause for a period of six months constitutes prima facie evidence of abandonment.
- 2. "Abuse" means the infliction or allowing of physical injury, impairment of bodily function or disfigurement or the infliction of or allowing another person to cause serious emotional damage as evidenced by severe anxiety, depression, withdrawal or untoward aggressive behavior and which emotional damage is diagnosed by a medical doctor or psychologist and is caused by the acts or omissions of an individual who has the care, custody and control of a child. Abuse includes:
- (a) Inflicting or allowing sexual abuse pursuant to section 13-1404, sexual conduct with a minor pursuant to section 13-1405, sexual assault pursuant to section 13-1406, molestation of a child pursuant to section 13-1410, commercial sexual exploitation of a minor pursuant to section 13-3552, sexual exploitation of a minor pursuant to section 13-3553, incest pursuant to section 13-3608 or child sex trafficking pursuant to section 13-3212.
- (b) Physical injury that results from allowing a child to enter or remain in any structure or vehicle in which volatile, toxic or flammable chemicals are found or equipment is possessed by any person for the purpose of manufacturing a dangerous drug as defined in section 13-3401.
 - (c) Unreasonable confinement of a child.
 - 3. "Adult" means a person who is eighteen years of age or older.
- 4. "Adult court" means the appropriate justice court, municipal court or criminal division of the superior court that has jurisdiction to hear proceedings concerning offenses committed by juveniles as provided in sections 8-327 and 13-501.
 - 5. "Award" or "commit" means to assign legal custody.
- 6. "Child", "youth" or "juvenile" means an individual who is under eighteen years of age.
- 7. "Complaint" means a written statement of the essential facts constituting a public offense that is any of the following:
- (a) Made on an oath before a judge or commissioner of the superior court or an authorized juvenile hearing officer.
 - (b) Made pursuant to section 13-3903.

- 1 -

- (c) Accompanied by an affidavit of a law enforcement officer or employee that swears on information and belief to the accuracy of the complaint pursuant to section 13-4261.
- 8. "Criminal conduct allegation" means an allegation of conduct by a parent, guardian or custodian of a child or an adult member of the victim's household that, if true, would constitute any of the following:
 - (a) A violation of section 13-3623 involving child abuse.
- (b) A felony offense that constitutes domestic violence as defined in section 13-3601.
 - (c) A violation of section 13-1404 or 13-1406 involving a minor.
 - (d) A violation of section 13-1405, 13-1410 or 13-1417.
 - (e) Any other act of abuse that is classified as a felony.
- (f) An offense that constitutes domestic violence as defined in section 13-3601 and that involves a minor who is a victim of or was in imminent danger during the domestic violence.
- 9. "Custodian" means a person, other than a parent or legal guardian, who stands in loco parentis to the child or a person to whom legal custody of the child has been given by order of the juvenile court.
- 10. "DCS report" means a communication received by the centralized intake hotline that alleges child abuse or neglect and that meets the criteria for a report as prescribed in section 8-455.
- 11. "Delinquency hearing" means a proceeding in the juvenile court to determine whether a juvenile has committed a specific delinquent act as set forth in a petition.
- 12. "Delinquent act" means an act by a juvenile that if committed by an adult would be a criminal offense or a petty offense, a violation of any law of this state, or of another state if the act occurred in that state, or a law of the United States, or a violation of any law that can only be violated by a minor and that has been designated as a delinquent offense, or any ordinance of a city, county or political subdivision of this state defining crime. Delinquent act does not include an offense under section 13-501, subsection A or B if the offense is filed in adult court. Any juvenile who is prosecuted as an adult or who is remanded for prosecution as an adult shall not be adjudicated as a delinquent juvenile for the same offense.
- 13. "Delinquent juvenile" means a child who is adjudicated to have committed a delinquent act.
 - 14. "Department" means the department of child safety.
 - 15. "Dependent child":
 - (a) Means a child who is adjudicated to be:
- (i) In need of proper and effective parental care and control and who has no parent or guardian, or one who has no parent or guardian willing to exercise or capable of exercising such care and control.
- (ii) Destitute or who is not provided with the necessities of life, including adequate food, clothing, shelter or medical care.

- 2 -

- (iii) A child whose home is unfit by reason of abuse, neglect, cruelty or depravity by a parent, a guardian or any other person having custody or care of the child.
- (iv) Under eight years of age and who is found to have committed an act that would result in adjudication as a delinquent juvenile or incorrigible child if committed by an older juvenile or child.
- (v) Incompetent or not restorable to competency and who is alleged to have committed a serious offense as defined in section 13-706.
- (b) Does not include a child who in good faith is being furnished Christian Science treatment by a duly accredited practitioner if none of the circumstances described in subdivision (a) of this paragraph exists.
- 16. "Detention" means the temporary confinement of a juvenile who requires secure care in a physically restricting facility that is completely surrounded by a locked and physically secure barrier with restricted ingress and egress for the protection of the juvenile or the community pending court disposition or as a condition of probation.
 - 17. "Director" means the director of the department.
- 18. "Health professional" has the same meaning prescribed in section 32-3201.
 - 19. "Incorrigible child" means a child who:
- (a) Is adjudicated as a child who refuses to obey the reasonable and proper orders or directions of a parent, guardian or custodian and who is beyond the control of that person.
- (b) Is habitually truant from school as defined in section 15-803, subsection C.
- (c) Is a runaway from the child's home or parent, guardian or custodian.
- (d) Habitually behaves in such a manner as to injure or endanger the morals or health of self or others.
- (e) Commits any act constituting an offense that can only be committed by a minor and that is not designated as a delinquent act.
- (f) Fails to obey any lawful order of a court of competent jurisdiction given in a noncriminal action.
- 20. "Independent living program" includes a residential program with supervision of less than twenty-four hours a day.
- 21. "Juvenile court" means the juvenile division of the superior court when exercising its jurisdiction over children in any proceeding relating to delinquency, dependency or incorrigibility.
- 22. "Law enforcement officer" means a peace officer, sheriff, deputy sheriff, municipal police officer or constable.
 - 23. "Medical director of a mental health agency":
- (a) Means a psychiatrist, or licensed physician experienced in psychiatric matters, who is designated in writing by the governing body of the agency as the person in charge of the medical services of the agency,

- 3 -

 or a psychiatrist designated by the governing body to act for the director.

- (b) Includes the superintendent of the state hospital.
- 24. "Mental health agency" means any private or public facility that is licensed by this state as a mental health treatment agency, a psychiatric hospital, a psychiatric unit of a general hospital or a residential treatment center for emotionally disturbed children and that uses secure settings or mechanical restraints.
 - 25. "Neglect" or "neglected" means:
- (a) The inability or unwillingness of a parent, guardian or custodian of a child to provide that child with supervision, food, clothing, shelter or medical care if that inability or unwillingness causes substantial risk of harm to the child's health or welfare, except if the inability of a parent, guardian or custodian to provide services to meet the needs of a child with a disability or chronic illness is solely the result of the unavailability of reasonable services.
- (b) Allowing a child to enter or remain in any structure or vehicle in which volatile, toxic or flammable chemicals are found or equipment is possessed by any person with the intent and for the purpose of manufacturing a dangerous drug as defined in section 13-3401.
- (c) A determination by a health professional that a newborn infant was exposed prenatally to a drug or substance listed in section 13-3401 and that this exposure was not the result of a medical treatment administered to the mother or the newborn infant by a health professional. This subdivision does not expand a health professional's duty to report neglect based on prenatal exposure to a drug or substance listed in section 13-3401 beyond the requirements prescribed pursuant to section 13-3620, subsection 13-3620. The determination by the health professional shall be based on one or more of the following:
- (i) Clinical indicators in the prenatal period including maternal and newborn presentation.
 - (ii) History of substance use or abuse.
 - (iii) Medical history.
- (iv) Results of a toxicology or other laboratory test on the mother or the newborn infant.
- (d) Diagnosis by a health professional of an infant under one year of age with clinical findings consistent with fetal alcohol syndrome or fetal alcohol effects.
- (e) Deliberate exposure of a child by a parent, guardian or custodian to sexual conduct as defined in section 13-3551 or to sexual contact, oral sexual contact or sexual intercourse as defined in section 13-1401, bestiality as prescribed in section 13-1411 or explicit sexual materials as defined in section 13-3507.

- 4 -

- (f) Any of the following acts committed by the child's parent, guardian or custodian with reckless disregard as to whether the child is physically present:
 - (i) Sexual contact as defined in section 13-1401.
 - (ii) Oral sexual contact as defined in section 13-1401.
 - (iii) Sexual intercourse as defined in section 13-1401.
 - (iv) Bestiality as prescribed in section 13-1411.
 - 26. "Newborn infant" means a child who is under thirty days of age.
- 27. "Petition" means a written statement of the essential facts that allege delinquency, incorrigibility or dependency.
- 28. "Prevention" means the creation of conditions, opportunities and experiences that encourage and develop healthy, self-sufficient children and that occur before the onset of problems.
- 29. "Protective supervision" means supervision that is ordered by the juvenile court of children who are found to be dependent or incorrigible.
- 30. "Qualified young adult" means a former dependent child who is at least eighteen years of age and not over twenty-one years of age, who meets the criteria for an extended foster care program pursuant to section 8-521.02 and who signs a voluntary agreement to participate in the program.
- 31. "Referral" means a report that is submitted to the juvenile court and that alleges that a child is dependent or incorrigible or that a juvenile has committed a delinquent or criminal act.
- 32. "Secure care" means confinement in a facility that is completely surrounded by a locked and physically secure barrier with restricted ingress and egress.
- 33. "Serious emotional injury" means an injury that is diagnosed by a medical doctor or a psychologist and that does any one or a combination of the following:
 - (a) Seriously impairs mental faculties.
- (b) Causes serious anxiety, depression, withdrawal or social dysfunction behavior to the extent that the child suffers dysfunction that requires treatment.
- (c) Is the result of sexual abuse pursuant to section 13-1404, sexual conduct with a minor pursuant to section 13-1405, sexual assault pursuant to section 13-1406, molestation of a child pursuant to section 13-1410, child sex trafficking pursuant to section 13-3212, commercial sexual exploitation of a minor pursuant to section 13-3552, sexual exploitation of a minor pursuant to section 13-3553 or incest pursuant to section 13-3608.
- 34. "Serious physical injury" means an injury that is diagnosed by a medical doctor and that does any one or a combination of the following:
 - (a) Creates a reasonable risk of death.
 - (b) Causes serious or permanent disfigurement.

- 5 -

- (c) Causes significant physical pain.
- (d) Causes serious impairment of health.
- (e) Causes the loss or protracted impairment of an organ or limb.
- (f) Is the result of sexual abuse pursuant to section 13-1404, sexual conduct with a minor pursuant to section 13-1405, sexual assault pursuant to section 13-1406, molestation of a child pursuant to section 13-1410, child sex trafficking pursuant to section 13-3212, commercial sexual exploitation of a minor pursuant to section 13-3552, sexual exploitation of a minor pursuant to section 13-3553 or incest pursuant to section 13-3608.
- 35. "Shelter care" means the temporary care of a child in any public or private facility or home that is licensed by this state and that offers a physically nonsecure environment that is characterized by the absence of physically restricting construction or hardware and that provides the child access to the surrounding community.
- 36. "Young adult administrative review" means an administrative review of a voluntary extended foster care case plan with the qualified young adult, the department's case specialist or designee, an independent party who is not responsible for the case management of or the delivery of services to the qualified young adult and any other individual the young adult invites.
- Sec. 2. Section 12-2233, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

12-2233. Clergyman or priest and penitent

In a civil action a clergyman or priest shall not, without the consent of the person making a confession, be examined as to any confession made to him in his character as clergyman or priest in the course of discipline enjoined by the church to which he belongs UNLESS THE CLERGYMAN OR PRIEST DETERMINES THAT THE CONFESSION INVOLVES ONGOING ABUSE.

Sec. 3. Section 13-3620, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

13-3620. <u>Duty to report abuse</u>, <u>physical injury</u>, <u>neglect and denial or deprivation of medical or surgical care or nourishment of minors; medical records; exception; violation; classification; definitions</u>

A. Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of physical injury, abuse, child abuse, a reportable offense or neglect that appears to have been inflicted on the minor by other than accidental means or that is not explained by the available medical history as being accidental in nature or who reasonably believes there has been a denial or deprivation of necessary medical treatment or surgical care or nourishment with the intent to cause or allow the death of an infant who is protected under section 36-2281 shall immediately report or cause reports to be made of this information to a peace officer, to the department of child safety or to a tribal law enforcement or social

- 6 -

 services agency for any Indian minor who resides on an Indian reservation, except if the report concerns a person who does not have care, custody or control of the minor, the report shall be made to a peace officer only. A member of the clergy, a Christian Science practitioner or a priest who has received a confidential communication or a confession in that person's role ABOUT ABUSE THAT HAS ALREADY OCCURRED WHILE SERVING as a member of the clergy, as a Christian Science practitioner or as a priest 📺 OPERATING UNDER the course of the discipline enjoined by the church to which the member of the clergy, the Christian Science practitioner or the priest belongs may withhold reporting of the communication or confession if UNLESS the member of the clergy, the Christian Science practitioner or the priest determines that it is reasonable and necessary within the concepts of the religion THERE IS REASONABLE SUSPICION TO BELIEVE THAT THE ABUSE IS ONGOING, WILL CONTINUE OR MAY BE A THREAT TO OTHER MINORS. exemption applies only to the communication or confession and not to personal observations the member of the clergy, the Christian Science practitioner or the priest may otherwise make of the minor. For the purposes of this subsection, "person" means:

- 1. Any physician, physician's assistant, optometrist, dentist, osteopathic physician, chiropractor, podiatrist, behavioral health professional, nurse, psychologist, counselor or social worker who develops the reasonable belief in the course of treating a patient.
- 2. Any peace officer, child welfare investigator, child safety worker, member of the clergy, priest or Christian Science practitioner.
 - 3. The parent, stepparent or guardian of the minor.
- 4. School personnel, domestic violence victim advocates or sexual assault victim advocates who develop the reasonable belief in the course of their employment.
- 5. Any other person who has responsibility for the care or treatment of the minor.
- 6. Any person who is employed as the immediate or next higher level supervisor to or administrator of a person who is listed in paragraph 1, 2, 4 or 5 of this subsection and who develops the reasonable belief in the course of the supervisor's or administrator's employment, except that if the supervisor or administrator reasonably believes that the report has been made by a person who is required to report pursuant to paragraph 1, 2, 4 or 5 of this subsection, the supervisor or administrator is not required to report pursuant to this paragraph.
- B. A MEMBER OF THE CLERGY, A CHRISTIAN SCIENCE PRACTITIONER OR A PRIEST WHO HAS KNOWLEDGE OR A REASONABLE SUSPICION THAT A PERSON IS COMMITTING OR MAY COMMIT CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT SHALL IMMEDIATELY REPORT OR CAUSE REPORTS TO BE MADE OF THIS INFORMATION TO A PEACE OFFICER, TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY OR TO A TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OR SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY FOR ANY INDIAN MINOR WHO RESIDES ON AN INDIAN RESERVATION, EXCEPT IF THE REPORT CONCERNS A PERSON WHO DOES NOT HAVE CARE, CUSTODY OR

- 7 -

 CONTROL OF THE MINOR, THE REPORT SHALL BE MADE TO A PEACE OFFICER ONLY. THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A CONFIDENTIAL OR PENITENTIAL COMMUNICATION UNLESS THE MEMBER OF THE CLERGY, A CHRISTIAN SCIENCE PRACTITIONER OR A PRIEST DETERMINES THAT THE ABUSE OR NEGLECT IS STILL OCCURRING OR WILL OCCUR IN THE FUTURE.

B. C. A report is not required under this section either:

- 1. For conduct prescribed by sections 13-1404 and 13-1405 if the conduct involves only minors who are fourteen, fifteen, sixteen or seventeen years of age and there is nothing to indicate that the conduct is other than consensual.
- 2. If a minor is of elementary school age, the physical injury occurs accidentally in the course of typical playground activity during a school day, occurs on the premises of the school that the minor attends and is reported to the legal parent or guardian of the minor and the school maintains a written record of the incident.
- c. D. If a physician, psychologist or behavioral health professional receives a statement from a person other than a parent, stepparent, guardian or custodian of the minor during the course of providing sex offender treatment that is not court ordered or that does not occur while the offender is incarcerated in the state department of corrections or the department of juvenile corrections, the physician, psychologist or behavioral health professional may withhold the reporting of that statement if the physician, psychologist or behavioral health professional determines it is reasonable and necessary to accomplish the purposes of the treatment.
- **D.** E. Reports shall be made immediately either electronically or by telephone. The reports shall contain the following information, if known:
- 1. The names and addresses of the minor and the minor's parents or the person or persons having custody of the minor.
- 2. The minor's age and the nature and extent of the minor's abuse, child abuse, physical injury or neglect, including any evidence of previous abuse, child abuse, physical injury or neglect.
- 3. Any other information that the person believes might be helpful in establishing the cause of the abuse, child abuse, physical injury or neglect.
- E. F. A health care professional who is regulated pursuant to title 32 and who, after a routine newborn physical assessment of a newborn infant's health status or following notification of positive toxicology screens of a newborn infant, reasonably believes that the newborn infant may be affected by the presence of alcohol or a drug listed in section 13-3401 shall immediately report this information, or cause a report to be made, to the department of child safety. For the purposes of this subsection, "newborn infant" means a newborn infant who is under thirty days of age.

- 8 -

F. G. Any person other than one required to report or cause reports to be made under subsection A OR B of this section who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been a victim of abuse, child abuse, physical injury, a reportable offense or neglect may report the information to a peace officer or to the department of child safety, except if the report concerns a person who does not have care, custody or control of the minor, the report shall be made to a peace officer only.

G. H. A person who has custody or control of medical records of a minor for whom a report is required or authorized under this section shall make the records, or a copy of the records, available to a peace officer, child welfare investigator or child safety worker investigating the minor's neglect, child abuse, physical injury or abuse on written request for the records signed by the peace officer, child welfare investigator or child safety worker. Records disclosed pursuant to this subsection are confidential and may be used only in a judicial or administrative proceeding or investigation resulting from a report required or authorized under this section.

H. I. When reports are received by a peace officer, the officer shall immediately notify the department of child safety. Notwithstanding any other statute, when the department receives these reports, it shall immediately notify a peace officer in the appropriate jurisdiction.

 $rac{ extsf{T.}}{ extsf{J.}}$ Any person who is required to receive reports pursuant to subsection A OR B of this section may take or cause to be taken photographs of the minor and the vicinity involved. Medical examinations of the involved minor may be performed.

J. K. A person who furnishes a report, information or records required or authorized under this section, or a person who participates in a judicial or administrative proceeding or investigation resulting from a report, information or records required or authorized under this section, is immune from any civil or criminal liability by reason of that action unless the person acted with malice or unless the person has been charged with or is suspected of abusing or neglecting the child or children in question.

K. L. Except for the attorney client privilege or the privilege under subsection — M of this section, no privilege applies to any:

- 1. Civil or criminal litigation or administrative proceeding in which a minor's neglect, dependency, abuse, child abuse, physical injury or abandonment is an issue.
- 2. Judicial or administrative proceeding resulting from a report, information or records submitted pursuant to this section.
- 3. Investigation of a minor's child abuse, physical injury, neglect or abuse conducted by a peace officer or the department of child safety.
- t. M. In any civil or criminal litigation in which a child's neglect, dependency, physical injury, abuse, child abuse or abandonment is an issue, a member of the clergy, a Christian Science practitioner or a

- 9 -

priest shall not, without his consent, be examined as a witness concerning any confession made to him in his role as a member of the clergy, a Christian Science practitioner or a priest in the course of the discipline enjoined by the church to which he belongs UNLESS THE MEMBER OF THE CLERGY, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE PRACTITIONER OR PRIEST DETERMINES THERE IS REASONABLE SUSPICION TO BELIEVE THAT THE DEPENDENCY, PHYSICAL INJURY, ABUSE, CHILD ABUSE OR ABANDONMENT IS ONGOING OR THAT DEPENDENCY, PHYSICAL INJURY, ABUSE, CHILD ABUSE OR ABANDONMENT MAY OCCUR IN THE FUTURE. This subsection does not discharge a member of the clergy, a Christian Science practitioner or a priest from the duty to report pursuant to subsection A OR B of this section.

 $\frac{M.}{C}$ N. If psychiatric records are requested pursuant to subsection $\frac{C}{C}$ H of this section, the custodian of the records shall notify the attending psychiatrist, who may excise from the records, before they are made available:

- 1. Personal information about individuals other than the patient.
- 2. Information regarding specific diagnosis or treatment of a psychiatric condition, if the attending psychiatrist certifies in writing that release of the information would be detrimental to the patient's health or treatment.
- N. O. If any portion of a psychiatric record is excised pursuant to subsection M N of this section, a court, on application of a peace officer, child welfare investigator or child safety worker, may order that the entire record or any portion of the record that contains information relevant to the reported abuse, child abuse, physical injury or neglect be made available to the peace officer, child welfare investigator or child safety worker investigating the abuse, child abuse, physical injury or neglect.
- O. P. A person who violates this section is guilty of a class 1 misdemeanor, except if the failure to report involves a reportable offense, the person is guilty of a class 6 felony.
 - P. Q. For the purposes of this section:
 - 1. "Abuse" has the same meaning prescribed in section 8-201.
 - 2. "Child abuse" means child abuse pursuant to section 13-3623.
 - 3. "Neglect" has the same meaning prescribed in section 8-201.
 - 4. "Reportable offense" means any of the following:
- (a) Any offense listed in chapters 14 and 35.1 of this title or section 13-3506.01.
- (b) Surreptitious photographing, videotaping, filming or digitally recording or viewing a minor pursuant to section 13-3019.
 - (c) Child sex trafficking pursuant to section 13-3212.
 - (d) Incest pursuant to section 13-3608.
 - (e) Unlawful mutilation pursuant to section 13-1214.

- 10 -