

135B.34 Hospital employees — criminal history and abuse record checks — penalty.

1. Prior to employment of a person in a hospital, the hospital shall request that the department of public safety perform a criminal history check and the department of human services perform child and dependent adult abuse record checks of the person in this state. A hospital shall inform all persons prior to employment regarding the performance of the record checks and shall obtain, from the persons, a signed acknowledgment of the receipt of the information. A hospital shall include the following inquiry in an application for employment:

Do you have a record of founded child or dependent adult abuse or have you ever been convicted of a crime, in this state or any other state?

2. *a.* If it is determined that a person being considered for employment in a hospital has committed a crime, the department of public safety shall notify the hospital that upon the request of the hospital the department of human services will perform an evaluation to determine whether the crime warrants prohibition of the person's employment in the hospital.

b. If a department of human services child or dependent adult abuse record check shows that the person has a record of founded child or dependent adult abuse, the department of human services shall notify the hospital that upon the request of the hospital the department of human services will perform an evaluation to determine whether the founded child or dependent adult abuse warrants prohibition of the person's employment in the hospital.

c. An evaluation performed under this subsection shall be performed in accordance with procedures adopted for this purpose by the department of human services.

d. (1) If a person owns or operates more than one hospital, and an employee of one of such hospitals is transferred to another such hospital without a lapse in employment, the hospital is not required to request additional criminal and child and dependent adult abuse record checks of that employee.

(2) If the ownership of a hospital is transferred, at the time of transfer the record checks required by this section shall be performed for each employee for whom there is no documentation that such record checks have been performed. The hospital may continue to employ such employee pending the performance of the record checks and any related evaluation.

3. In an evaluation, the department of human services shall consider the nature and seriousness of the crime or founded child or dependent adult abuse in relation to the position sought or held, the time elapsed since the commission of the crime or founded child or dependent adult abuse, the circumstances under which the crime or founded child or dependent adult abuse was committed, the degree of rehabilitation, the likelihood that the person will commit the crime or founded child or dependent adult abuse again, and the number of crimes or founded child or dependent adult abuses committed by the person involved. If the department of human services performs an evaluation for the purposes of this section, the department of human services has final authority in determining whether prohibition of the person's employment is warranted.

4. *a.* Except as provided in paragraph "b" and subsection 2, a person who has committed a crime or has a record of founded child or dependent adult abuse shall not be employed in a hospital licensed under this chapter unless an evaluation has been performed by the department of human services.

b. A person with a criminal or abuse record who is employed by a hospital licensed under this chapter and is hired by another licensee without a lapse in employment shall be subject to the criminal history and abuse record checks required pursuant to subsection 1. If an evaluation was previously performed by the department of human services concerning the person's criminal or abuse record and it was determined that the record did not warrant prohibition of the person's employment and the latest record checks do not indicate a crime was committed or founded abuse record was entered subsequent to that evaluation, the person may commence employment with the other licensee while the department of human

services' evaluation of the latest record checks is pending. Otherwise, the requirements of paragraph "a" remain applicable to the person's employment.

5. *a.* If a person employed by a hospital that is subject to this section is convicted of a crime or has a record of founded child or dependent adult abuse entered in the abuse registry after the person's employment application date, the person shall inform the hospital of such information within forty-eight hours of the criminal conviction or entry of the record of founded child or dependent adult abuse. The hospital shall act to verify the information within forty-eight hours of notification. If the information is verified, the requirements of subsections 2, 3, and 4 regarding employability and evaluations shall be applied by the hospital to determine whether or not the person's employment is continued. The hospital may continue to employ the person pending the performance of an evaluation by the department of human services to determine whether prohibition of the person's employment is warranted. A person who is required by this subsection to inform the person's employer of a conviction or entry of an abuse record and fails to do so within the required period commits a serious misdemeanor.

b. If a hospital receives credible information, as determined by the hospital, that a person employed by the hospital has been convicted of a crime or a record of founded child or dependent adult abuse has been entered in the abuse registry after employment from a person other than the employee and the employee has not informed the hospital of such information within the period required under paragraph "a", the hospital shall act to verify the credible information within forty-eight hours of receipt of the credible information. If the information is verified, the requirements of subsections 2, 3, and 4 regarding employability and evaluations shall be applied by the hospital to determine whether or not the person's employment is continued.

c. The hospital may notify the county attorney for the county where the hospital is located of any violation or failure by an employee to notify the hospital of a criminal conviction or entry of an abuse record within the period required under paragraph "a".

6. A hospital licensed in this state may access the single contact repository established by the department pursuant to section 135C.33 as necessary for the hospital to perform record checks of persons employed or being considered for employment by the hospital.

2002 Acts, ch 1034, §1; 2008 Acts, ch 1187, §111