

CHAPTER 1093**DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE —
CARETAKER FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS***H.F. 2591*

AN ACT relating to dependent adult abuse in certain facilities and programs and providing penalties.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. Section 235B.1, subsection 4, paragraph a, subparagraph (3), Code 2007, is amended to read as follows:

(3) Receive and review recommendations and complaints from the public, health care facilities, and health care programs concerning the dependent adult abuse services program.

Sec. 2. Section 235B.1, subsection 4, paragraph b, subparagraph (1), Code 2007, is amended to read as follows:

(1) The advisory council shall consist of ~~ten~~ twelve members. Six members shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the governor. Four of the members appointed shall be appointed on the basis of knowledge and skill related to expertise in the area of dependent adult abuse including professionals practicing in the disciplines of medicine, public health, mental health, long-term care, social work, law, and law enforcement. Two of the members appointed shall be members of the general public with an interest in the area of dependent adult abuse and two of the members appointed shall be members of the Iowa caregivers association. In addition, the membership of the council shall include the director or the director's designee of the department of human services, the department of elder affairs, the Iowa department of public health, and the department of inspections and appeals.

Sec. 3. Section 235B.2, subsection 5, paragraph a, subparagraph (3), unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2007, is amended to read as follows:

Sexual exploitation of a dependent adult ~~who is a resident of a health care facility, as defined in section 135C.1, by a caretaker providing services to or employed by the health care facility, whether within the health care facility or at a location outside of the health care facility by a caretaker.~~

Sec. 4. Section 235B.3, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code Supplement 2007, is amended to read as follows:

a. The department shall receive dependent adult abuse reports and shall collect, maintain, and disseminate the reports by establishing a central registry for dependent adult abuse information. The department shall evaluate the reports expeditiously. However, the department of inspections and appeals is solely responsible for the evaluation and disposition of dependent adult abuse cases within health care facilities and programs pursuant to chapter 235E and shall inform the department of human services of such evaluations and dispositions pursuant to section 235E.2.

Sec. 5. Section 235B.3, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code Supplement 2007, is amended to read as follows:

a. A member of the staff of a community mental health center, ~~a member of the staff of a hospital, a member of the staff or employee of a public or private health care facility as defined in section 135C.1, a member of the staff or employee of an elder group home as defined in section 231B.1, a member of the staff or employee of an assisted living program certified under section 231C.3, and a member of the staff or employee of an adult day services program as defined in section 231D.1.~~

Sec. 6. Section 235B.3, subsection 13, Code Supplement 2007, is amended to read as follows:

13. The department of inspections and appeals shall adopt rules which require licensed health care facilities or programs to separate an alleged dependent adult abuser from a victim following an allegation of perpetration of abuse and prior to the completion of an investigation of the allegation.

Sec. 7. Section 235B.5, subsection 5, Code 2007, is amended to read as follows:

5. An oral report of suspected dependent adult abuse initially made to the central registry regarding a health care facility or program as defined in section 235E.1 shall be transmitted by the department to the department of inspections and appeals on the first working day following the submitting of the report.

Sec. 8. Section 235B.6, subsection 2, paragraph c, subparagraphs (1) and (4), Code Supplement 2007, are amended to read as follows:

(1) A licensing authority for a facility, including a facility or program defined in section 235E.1, providing care to an adult named in a report.

(4) The legally authorized protection and advocacy agency recognized pursuant to section 135C.2 if a person identified in the information as a victim or a perpetrator of abuse resided in or receives services from a facility, including a facility or program defined in section 235E.1, or agency because the person is diagnosed as having a developmental disability or a mental illness.

Sec. 9. Section 235B.6, subsection 2, paragraph d, subparagraph (3), Code Supplement 2007, is amended to read as follows:

(3) An expert witness or a witness who testifies at any stage of an appeal necessary for correction of dependent adult abuse information as provided in section 235B.10.

Sec. 10. Section 235B.16, subsection 5, paragraphs b, f, g, and i, Code Supplement 2007, are amended to read as follows:

b. A person required to report cases of dependent adult abuse pursuant to ~~section~~ sections 235B.3 and 235E.2, other than a physician whose professional practice does not regularly involve providing primary health care to adults, shall complete two hours of training relating to the identification and reporting of dependent adult abuse within six months of initial employment or self-employment which involves the examination, attending, counseling, or treatment of adults on a regular basis. Within one month of initial employment or self-employment, the person shall obtain a statement of the abuse reporting requirements from the person's employer or, if self-employed, from the department. The person shall complete at least two hours of additional dependent adult abuse identification and reporting training every five years.

f. A licensing board with authority over the license of a person required to report cases of dependent adult abuse pursuant to ~~section~~ sections 235B.3 and 235E.2 shall require as a condition of licensure that the person is in compliance with the requirements for abuse training under this subsection. The licensing board shall require the person upon licensure renewal to accurately document for the licensing board the person's completion of the training requirements. However, the licensing board may adopt rules providing for waiver or suspension of the compliance requirements, if the waiver or suspension is in the public interest, applicable to a person who is engaged in active duty in the military service of this state or of the United States, to a person for whom compliance with the training requirements would impose a significant hardship, or to a person who is practicing a licensed profession outside this state or is otherwise subject to circumstances that would preclude the person from encountering dependent adult abuse in this state.

g. For persons required to report cases of dependent adult abuse pursuant to ~~section~~ sections 235B.3 and 235E.2, who are not engaged in a licensed profession that is subject to the authority of a licensing board but are employed by a facility or program subject to licensure,

registration, or approval by a state agency, the agency shall require as a condition of the renewal of the facility's or program's licensure, registration, or approval, that such persons employed by the facility or program are in compliance with the training requirements of this subsection.

i. For persons required to report cases of dependent adult abuse pursuant to ~~section~~ sections 235B.3 and 235E.2 who are employees of state departments and political subdivisions of the state, the department director or the chief administrator of the political subdivision shall ensure the persons' compliance with the training requirements of this subsection.

Sec. 11. NEW SECTION. 235E.1 DEFINITIONS.

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Caretaker" means a person who is a staff member of a facility or program who provides care, protection, or services to a dependent adult voluntarily, by contract, through employment, or by order of the court.

2. "Court" means the district court.

3. "Department" means the department of inspections and appeals.

4. "Dependent adult" means a person eighteen years of age or older whose ability to perform the normal activities of daily living or to provide for the person's own care or protection is impaired, either temporarily or permanently.

5. a. "Dependent adult abuse" means:

(1) Any of the following as a result of the willful misconduct or gross negligence or reckless acts or omissions of a caretaker, taking into account the totality of the circumstances:

(a) A physical injury to, or injury which is at a variance with the history given of the injury, or unreasonable confinement, unreasonable punishment, or assault of a dependent adult which involves a breach of skill, care, and learning ordinarily exercised by a caretaker in similar circumstances. "Assault of a dependent adult" means the commission of any act which is generally intended to cause pain or injury to a dependent adult, or which is generally intended to result in physical contact which would be considered by a reasonable person to be insulting or offensive or any act which is intended to place another in fear of immediate physical contact which will be painful, injurious, insulting, or offensive, coupled with the apparent ability to execute the act.

(b) The commission of a sexual offense under chapter 709 or section 726.2 with or against a dependent adult.

(c) Exploitation of a dependent adult. "Exploitation" means a caretaker who knowingly obtains, uses, endeavors to obtain to use, or who misappropriates, a dependent adult's funds, assets, medications, or property with the intent to temporarily or permanently deprive a dependent adult of the use, benefit, or possession of the funds, assets, medication, or property for the benefit of someone other than the dependent adult.

(d) Neglect of a dependent adult. "Neglect of a dependent adult" means the deprivation of the minimum food, shelter, clothing, supervision, physical or mental health care, or other care necessary to maintain a dependent adult's life or physical or mental health.

(2) Sexual exploitation of a dependent adult by a caretaker whether within a facility or program or at a location outside of a facility or program. "Sexual exploitation" means any consensual or nonconsensual sexual conduct with a dependent adult which includes but is not limited to kissing; touching of the clothed or unclothed breast, groin, buttock, anus, pubes, or genitals; or a sex act, as defined in section 702.17. "Sexual exploitation" includes the transmission, display, taking of electronic images of the unclothed breast, groin, buttock, anus, pubes, or genitals of a dependent adult by a caretaker for a purpose not related to treatment or diagnosis or as part of an ongoing investigation. Sexual exploitation does not include touching which is part of a necessary examination, treatment, or care by a caretaker acting within the scope of the practice or employment of the caretaker; the exchange of a brief touch or hug between the dependent adult and a caretaker for the purpose of reassurance, comfort, or casual friendship; or touching between spouses or domestic partners in an intimate relationship.

b. "Dependent adult abuse" does not include any of the following:

(1) Circumstances in which the dependent adult declines medical treatment if the dependent adult holds a belief or is an adherent of a religion whose tenets and practices call for reliance on spiritual means in place of reliance on medical treatment.

(2) Circumstances in which the dependent adult's caretaker, acting in accordance with the dependent adult's stated or implied consent, declines medical treatment or care.

(3) The withholding or withdrawing of health care from a dependent adult who is terminally ill in the opinion of a licensed physician, when the withholding or withdrawing of health care is done at the request of the dependent adult or at the request of the dependent adult's next of kin, attorney in fact, or guardian pursuant to the applicable procedures under chapter 125, 144A, 144B, 222, 229, or 633.

6. "Facility" means a health care facility as defined in section 135C.1 or a hospital as defined in section 135B.1.

7. "Intimate relationship" means a significant romantic involvement between two persons that need not include sexual involvement, but does not include a casual social relationship or association in a business or professional capacity. In determining whether persons are in an intimate relationship, the court may consider the following nonexclusive list of factors:

a. The duration of the relationship.

b. The frequency of interaction.

c. Whether the relationship has been terminated.

d. The nature of the relationship, characterized by either person's expectation of sexual or romantic involvement.

8. "Person" means person as defined in section 4.1.

9. "Program" means an elder group home as defined in section 231B.1, an assisted living program certified under section 231C.3, or an adult day services program as defined in section 231D.1.

10. "Recklessly" means that a person acts or fails to act with respect to a material element of a public offense, when the person is aware of and consciously disregards a substantial and unjustifiable risk that the material element exists or will result from the act or omission. The risk must be of such a nature and degree that disregard of the risk constitutes a gross deviation from the standard conduct that a reasonable person would observe in the situation.

11. "Support services" includes but is not limited to community-based services including area agency on aging assistance, mental health services, fiscal management, home health services, housing-related services, counseling services, transportation services, adult day services, respite services, legal services, and advocacy services.

Sec. 12. NEW SECTION. 235E.2 DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE REPORTS IN FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS.

1. a. The department shall receive and evaluate reports of dependent adult abuse in facilities and programs. The department shall inform the department of human services of such evaluations and dispositions for inclusion in the central registry for dependent adult abuse information pursuant to section 235B.5.

b. Reports of dependent adult abuse which is the result of the acts or omissions of the dependent adult shall be collected and maintained in the files of the dependent adult as assessments only and shall not be included in the central registry.

c. A report of dependent adult abuse that meets the definition of dependent adult abuse under section 235E.1, subsection 5, paragraph "a", subparagraph (1), subparagraph subdivision (a) or (d), which the department determines is minor, isolated, and unlikely to reoccur shall be collected and maintained by the department of human services as an assessment only for a five-year period and shall not be included in the central registry and shall not be considered to be founded dependent adult abuse. A subsequent report of dependent adult abuse that meets the definition of dependent adult abuse under section 235E.1, subsection 5, paragraph "a", subparagraph (1), subparagraph subdivision (a) or (d), that occurs within the five-year period, and that is committed by the caretaker responsible for the act or omission which was the subject of the previous report of dependent adult abuse which the department determined was

minor, isolated, and unlikely to reoccur, may be considered minor, isolated, and unlikely to reoccur depending on the circumstances of the report.

2. A staff member or employee of a facility or program who, in the course of employment, examines, attends, counsels, or treats a dependent adult in a facility or program and reasonably believes the dependent adult has suffered dependent adult abuse, shall report the suspected dependent adult abuse to the department.

3. a. If a staff member or employee is required to make a report pursuant to this section, the staff member or employee shall immediately notify the person in charge or the person's designated agent who shall then notify the department within twenty-four hours of such notification. If the person in charge is the alleged dependent adult abuser, the staff member shall directly report the abuse to the department within twenty-four hours.

b. The employer or supervisor of a person who is required to or may make a report pursuant to this section shall not apply a policy, work rule, or other requirement that interferes with the person making a report of dependent adult abuse or that results in the failure of another person to make the report.

4. An employee of a financial institution may report suspected financial exploitation of a dependent adult to the department.

5. Any other person who believes that a dependent adult has suffered dependent adult abuse may report the suspected dependent adult abuse to the department of inspections and appeals. The department of inspections and appeals shall transfer any reports received of dependent adult abuse in the community to the department of human services. The department of human services shall transfer any reports received of dependent adult abuse in facilities or programs to the department of inspections and appeals.

6. The department shall inform the appropriate county attorneys of any reports of dependent adult abuse. The department may request information from any person believed to have knowledge of a case of dependent adult abuse. The person, including but not limited to a county attorney, a law enforcement agency, a multidisciplinary team, a social services agency in the state, or any person who is required pursuant to subsection 2 to report dependent adult abuse, whether or not the person made the specific dependent adult abuse report, shall cooperate and assist in the evaluation upon the request of the department. If the department's assessment reveals that dependent adult abuse exists which might constitute a criminal offense, a report shall be made to the appropriate law enforcement agency. County attorneys and appropriate law enforcement agencies shall also take any other lawful action necessary or advisable for the protection of the dependent adult.

a. If, upon completion of an investigation, the department determines that the best interests of the dependent adult require court action, the department shall notify the department of human services of the potential need for a guardian or conservator or for admission or commitment to an appropriate institution or facility pursuant to the applicable procedures under chapter 125, 222, 229, or 633, or shall pursue other remedies provided by law. The appropriate county attorney shall assist the department of human services in the preparation of the necessary papers to initiate the action and shall appear and represent the department of human services at all district court proceedings.

b. Investigators within the department shall be specially trained to investigate cases of dependent adult abuse including but not limited to cases involving gerontological, dementia, and wound care issues.

c. The department shall assist the court during all stages of court proceedings involving a suspected case of dependent adult abuse.

d. In every case involving dependent adult abuse which is substantiated by the department and which results in a judicial proceeding on behalf of the dependent adult, legal counsel shall be appointed by the court to represent the dependent adult in the proceedings. The court may also appoint a guardian ad litem to represent the dependent adult if necessary to protect the dependent adult's best interests. The same attorney may be appointed to serve both as legal counsel and as guardian ad litem. Before legal counsel or a guardian ad litem is appointed pur-

suant to this paragraph, the court shall require the dependent adult and any person legally responsible for the support of the dependent adult to complete under oath a detailed financial statement. If, on the basis of that financial statement, the court deems that the dependent adult or the legally responsible person is able to bear all or a portion of the cost of the legal counselor guardian ad litem, the court shall so order. In cases where the dependent adult or the legally responsible person is unable to bear the cost of the legal counsel or guardian ad litem, the expense shall be paid by the county.

7. A person participating in good faith in reporting or cooperating with or assisting the department in evaluating a case of dependent adult abuse has immunity from liability, civil or criminal, which might otherwise be incurred or imposed based upon the act of making the report or giving the assistance. The person has the same immunity with respect to participating in good faith in a judicial proceeding resulting from the report, cooperation, or assistance or relating to the subject matter of the report, cooperation, or assistance.

8. It shall be unlawful for any person or employer to discharge, suspend, or otherwise discipline a person required to report or voluntarily reporting an instance of suspected dependent adult abuse pursuant to subsection 2 or 5, or cooperating with, or assisting the department in evaluating a case of dependent adult abuse, or participating in judicial proceedings relating to the reporting or cooperation or assistance based solely upon the person's reporting or assistance relative to the instance of dependent adult abuse. A person or employer found in violation of this subsection is guilty of a simple misdemeanor.

9. A person required by this section to report a suspected case of dependent adult abuse pursuant to subsection 2 who knowingly and willfully fails to do so within twenty-four hours commits a simple misdemeanor. A person required by subsection 2 to report a suspected case of dependent adult abuse who knowingly fails to do so or who knowingly interferes with the making of such a report or applies a requirement that results in such a failure is civilly liable for the damages proximately caused by the failure.

10. The department shall adopt rules which require facilities and programs to separate an alleged dependent adult abuser from a victim following an allegation of perpetration of dependent adult abuse and prior to the completion of an investigation of the allegation.

11. Upon receiving notice from a credible source, the department shall notify a facility or program that subsequently employs a dependent adult abuser when the notice of investigative findings has been issued. Such notification shall occur prior to the completion of an investigation that is founded for dependent adult abuse.

12. An inspector of the department may enter any facility or program without a warrant and may examine all records pertaining to residents, employees, former employees, and the alleged dependent adult abuser. An inspector of the department may contact or interview any resident, employee, former employee, or any other person who might have knowledge about the alleged dependent adult abuse. An inspector may take or cause to be taken photographs of the dependent adult abuse victim and the vicinity involved. The department shall obtain consent from the dependent adult abuse victim or guardian or other person with a power of attorney over the dependent adult abuse victim prior to taking photographs of the dependent adult abuse victim.

13. a. Notwithstanding section 235B.6 and chapter 22, an employee organization or union representative may observe an investigative interview conducted by the department of an alleged dependent adult abuser if all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The alleged dependent adult abuser is part of a bargaining unit that is party to a collective bargaining agreement under chapter 20 or any other applicable state or federal law.

(2) The alleged dependent adult abuser requests the presence of a union representative.

(3) The union representative maintains the confidentiality of all information from the interview subject to the penalties provided in section 235B.12 if such confidentiality is breached.

b. This subsection shall only apply to interviews conducted pursuant to this chapter. This subsection does not apply to interviews conducted pursuant to the regulatory activities of chapter 135B, 135C, 231B, 231C, or 231D, or any other state or federal law.

Sec. 13. NEW SECTION. 235E.3 PREVENTION OF ADDITIONAL DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE — NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS.

If a peace officer has reason to believe that dependent adult abuse, which is criminal in nature, has occurred in a facility or program, the officer shall use all reasonable means to prevent further dependent adult abuse, including but not limited to any of the following:

1. If requested, remaining on the scene as long as there is a danger to the dependent adult's physical safety without the presence of a peace officer, including but not limited to staying in the facility or program, or if unable to remain at the scene, assisting the dependent adult in leaving the facility or program and securing support services or emergency shelter services.

2. Assisting the dependent adult in obtaining medical treatment necessitated by the dependent adult abuse, including providing assistance to the dependent adult in obtaining transportation to the emergency room of the nearest hospital.

3. Providing a dependent adult with immediate and adequate notice of the dependent adult's rights. The notice shall consist of handing the dependent adult a copy of the following written statement, requesting the dependent adult to read the card and asking the dependent adult whether the dependent adult understands the rights:

“a. You have the right to ask the court for the following help on a temporary basis:

(1) Keeping the alleged perpetrator away from you, your home, your facility, and your place of work.

(2) The right to stay at your home or facility without interference from the alleged perpetrator.

(3) Professional counseling for you, your family, or household members, and the alleged perpetrator of the dependent adult abuse.

b. If you are in need of medical treatment, you have the right to request that the peace officer present assist you in obtaining transportation to the nearest hospital or otherwise assist you.

c. If you believe that police protection is needed for your physical safety, you have the right to request that the peace officer present remain at the scene until you and other affected parties can leave or safety is otherwise ensured.”

The notice shall also contain the telephone number of the local emergency shelter services, support services, or crisis lines operating in the area.

Sec. 14. NEW SECTION. 235E.4 CHAPTER 235B APPLICATION.

Sections 235B.4 through 235B.20, not inconsistent with this chapter, shall apply to this chapter.

Sec. 15. NEW SECTION. 235E.5 RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.

The department, in cooperation and consultation with the dependent adult protective advisory council established in section 235B.1, affected industry representatives, and professional and consumer groups, may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A to administer this chapter.

Approved April 16, 2008