



LAWS OF ALASKA

1999

Source

HCS CSSB 57(JUD)

Chapter No.

21

AN ACT

Relating to vulnerable adults; and providing for an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1

Approved by the Governor: May 13, 1999

Actual Effective Date: Section 5 takes effect May 14, 1999; remainder of Act takes effect August 11, 1999

AN ACT

1 Relating to vulnerable adults; and providing for an effective date.

2

3 * Section 1. AS 47.24.015(c) is amended to read:

4 (c) The department, or its designee, shall immediately terminate an
5 investigation under this section upon the request of the vulnerable adult who is the
6 subject of the report made under AS 47.24.010. However, the department or its
7 designee may not terminate the investigation if the investigation to that point has
8 resulted in probable [REASONABLE] cause to believe that the vulnerable adult is in
9 need of protective services and the request is made personally by the vulnerable
10 adult and the vulnerable adult is not competent to make the request on the
11 adult's own behalf, or the request is made by the vulnerable adult's guardian,
12 attorney-in-fact, or surrogate decision maker and that person is the alleged
13 perpetrator of the abandonment, exploitation, abuse, or neglect of the vulnerable
14 adult and is being investigated under this chapter. If the department has
15 probable cause to believe that the vulnerable adult is in need of protective

Chapter 21

1 services.

2 (1) the department may petition the court as set out in AS 47.24.019;

3 or

4 (2) the department or its designee may refer the report made to the
5 department under AS 47.24.010 to a police officer for criminal investigation.

6 * Sec. 2. AS 47.24.019(a) is amended to read:

7 (a) If, after investigation under AS 47.24.015, the department has reasonable
8 cause to believe that a vulnerable adult is in need of protective services and is an
9 incapacitated person, the department may petition the court under AS 13.26 for
10 appointment of a guardian or temporary guardian, or for a change of guardian, for
11 the vulnerable adult for the purpose of deciding whether to consent to the receipt of
12 protective services for the vulnerable adult.

13 * Sec. 3. AS 47.24.019(c) is amended to read:

14 (c) If a vulnerable adult who has consented to receive protective services, or
15 on whose behalf consent to receive protective services has been given, is prevented by
16 a caregiver, guardian, attorney-in-fact, or surrogate decision maker from receiving
17 those services, the department may [ASSIST THE VULNERABLE ADULT OR THE
18 PERSON WHO CONSENTED TO THE VULNERABLE ADULT'S RECEIPT OF
19 THE SERVICES TO] petition the superior court for an injunction restraining the
20 caregiver, guardian, attorney-in-fact, or surrogate decision maker from interfering
21 with the provision of protective services to the vulnerable adult.

22 * Sec. 4. AS 47.24.050(b) is amended to read:

23 (b) The department shall disclose a report of the abandonment, exploitation,
24 abuse, neglect, or self-neglect of a vulnerable adult if the vulnerable adult who is the
25 subject of the report or the vulnerable adult's guardian, attorney-in-fact, or
26 surrogate decision maker consents in writing. The department may not disclose
27 a report of the abandonment, exploitation, abuse, neglect, or self-neglect of a
28 vulnerable adult to the vulnerable adult's guardian, attorney-in-fact, or surrogate
29 decision maker if that person is an alleged perpetrator of the abandonment,
30 exploitation, abuse, or neglect of the vulnerable adult and is being investigated
31 under this chapter. The department shall, upon request, disclose the number of

1 verified reports of abandonment, exploitation, abuse, neglect, or self-neglect of a
2 vulnerable adult that occurred at an institution that provides care for vulnerable adults
3 or that were the result of actions or inactions of a public home care provider.

4 * **Sec. 5.** TRANSITION. A department affected by this Act may proceed to adopt
5 regulations necessary to implement this Act. Regulations to implement a provision of this Act
6 take effect under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), but not before the effective date
7 of sec. 1 of this Act.

8 * **Sec. 6.** Section 5 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).