
SENATE BILL 5476

State of Washington 53rd Legislature 1993 Regular Session

By Senators Talmadge, A. Smith, Quigley, Moyer, M. Rasmussen and Oke

Read first time 01/29/93. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1 AN ACT Relating to HIV testing of sex offenders; and amending RCW
2 70.24.105 and 70.24.340.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.24.105 and 1989 c 123 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) No person may disclose or be compelled to disclose the identity
7 of any person who has investigated, considered, or requested a test or
8 treatment for a sexually transmitted disease, except as authorized by
9 this chapter.

10 (2) No person may disclose or be compelled to disclose the identity
11 of any person upon whom an HIV antibody test is performed, or the
12 results of such a test, nor may the result of a test for any other
13 sexually transmitted disease when it is positive be disclosed. This
14 protection against disclosure of test subject, diagnosis, or treatment
15 also applies to any information relating to diagnosis of or treatment
16 for HIV infection and for any other confirmed sexually transmitted
17 disease. The following persons, however, may receive such information:

18 (a) The subject of the test or the subject's legal representative
19 for health care decisions in accordance with RCW 7.70.065, with the

1 exception of such a representative of a minor child over fourteen years
2 of age and otherwise competent;

3 (b) Any person who secures a specific release of test results or
4 information relating to HIV or confirmed diagnosis of or treatment for
5 any other sexually transmitted disease executed by the subject or the
6 subject's legal representative for health care decisions in accordance
7 with RCW 7.70.065, with the exception of such a representative of a
8 minor child over fourteen years of age and otherwise competent;

9 (c) The state public health officer, a local public health officer,
10 or the centers for disease control of the United States public health
11 service in accordance with reporting requirements for a diagnosed case
12 of a sexually transmitted disease;

13 (d) A health facility or health care provider that procures,
14 processes, distributes, or uses: (i) A human body part, tissue, or
15 blood from a deceased person with respect to medical information
16 regarding that person; (ii) semen, including that provided prior to
17 March 23, 1988, for the purpose of artificial insemination; or (iii)
18 blood specimens;

19 (e) Any state or local public health officer conducting an
20 investigation pursuant to RCW 70.24.024, provided that such record was
21 obtained by means of court ordered HIV testing pursuant to RCW
22 70.24.340 or 70.24.024;

23 (f) A person allowed access to the record by a court order granted
24 after application showing good cause therefor. In assessing good
25 cause, the court shall weigh the public interest and the need for
26 disclosure against the injury to the patient, to the physician-patient
27 relationship, and to the treatment services. Upon the granting of the
28 order, the court, in determining the extent to which any disclosure of
29 all or any part of the record of any such test is necessary, shall
30 impose appropriate safeguards against unauthorized disclosure. An
31 order authorizing disclosure shall: (i) Limit disclosure to those
32 parts of the patient's record deemed essential to fulfill the objective
33 for which the order was granted; (ii) limit disclosure to those persons
34 whose need for information is the basis for the order; and (iii)
35 include any other appropriate measures to keep disclosure to a minimum
36 for the protection of the patient, the physician-patient relationship,
37 and the treatment services, including but not limited to the written
38 statement set forth in subsection (5) of this section;

1 (g) Persons who, because of their behavioral interaction with the
2 infected individual, have been placed at risk for acquisition of a
3 sexually transmitted disease, as provided in RCW 70.24.022, if the
4 health officer or authorized representative believes that the exposed
5 person was unaware that a risk of disease exposure existed and that the
6 disclosure of the identity of the infected person is necessary;

7 (h) A law enforcement officer, fire fighter, health care provider,
8 health care facility staff person, or other persons as defined by the
9 board in rule pursuant to RCW 70.24.340(~~((+4))~~) (5), who has requested
10 a test of a person whose bodily fluids he or she has been substantially
11 exposed to, pursuant to RCW 70.24.340(~~((+4))~~) (5), if a state or local
12 public health officer performs the test;

13 (i) A victim, or a victim's guardian if the victim is under
14 fourteen years of age, of a sexual offense committed by a person
15 convicted, or found by a juvenile court to have committed an offense,
16 under chapter 9A.44 RCW or RCW 9A.64.020;

17 (j) Claims management personnel employed by or associated with an
18 insurer, health care service contractor, health maintenance
19 organization, self-funded health plan, state-administered health care
20 claims payer, or any other payer of health care claims where such
21 disclosure is to be used solely for the prompt and accurate evaluation
22 and payment of medical or related claims. Information released under
23 this subsection shall be confidential and shall not be released or
24 available to persons who are not involved in handling or determining
25 medical claims payment; and

26 (~~((+j))~~) (k) A department of social and health services worker, a
27 child placing agency worker, or a guardian ad litem who is responsible
28 for making or reviewing placement or case-planning decisions or
29 recommendations to the court regarding a child, who is less than
30 fourteen years of age, has a sexually transmitted disease, and is in
31 the custody of the department of social and health services or a
32 licensed child placing agency; this information may also be received by
33 a person responsible for providing residential care for such a child
34 when the department of social and health services or a licensed child
35 placing agency determines that it is necessary for the provision of
36 child care services.

37 (3) No person to whom the results of a test for a sexually
38 transmitted disease have been disclosed pursuant to subsection (2) of

1 this section may disclose the test results to another person except as
2 authorized by that subsection.

3 (4) The release of sexually transmitted disease information
4 regarding an offender, except as provided in subsection (2)(e) of this
5 section, shall be governed as follows:

6 (a) The sexually transmitted disease status of a department of
7 corrections offender shall be made available by department of
8 corrections health care providers to a department of corrections
9 superintendent or administrator as necessary for disease prevention or
10 control and for protection of the safety and security of the staff,
11 offenders, and the public. The information may be submitted to
12 transporting officers and receiving facilities, including facilities
13 that are not under the department of correction's jurisdiction.

14 (b) The sexually transmitted disease status of a person detained in
15 a jail shall be made available by the local public health officer to a
16 jail administrator as necessary for disease prevention or control and
17 for protection of the safety and security of the staff, offenders, and
18 the public. The information may be submitted to transporting officers
19 and receiving facilities.

20 (c) Information regarding a department of corrections offender's
21 sexually transmitted disease status is confidential and may be
22 disclosed by a correctional superintendent or administrator or local
23 jail administrator only as necessary for disease prevention or control
24 and for protection of the safety and security of the staff, offenders,
25 and the public. Unauthorized disclosure of this information to any
26 person may result in disciplinary action, in addition to any other
27 penalties as may be prescribed by law.

28 (5) Whenever disclosure is made pursuant to this section, except
29 for subsections (2)(a) and (6) of this section, it shall be accompanied
30 by a statement in writing which includes the following or substantially
31 similar language: "This information has been disclosed to you from
32 records whose confidentiality is protected by state law. State law
33 prohibits you from making any further disclosure of it without the
34 specific written consent of the person to whom it pertains, or as
35 otherwise permitted by state law. A general authorization for the
36 release of medical or other information is NOT sufficient for this
37 purpose." An oral disclosure shall be accompanied or followed by such
38 a notice within ten days.

1 (6) The requirements of this section shall not apply to the
2 customary methods utilized for the exchange of medical information
3 among health care providers in order to provide health care services to
4 the patient, nor shall they apply within health care facilities where
5 there is a need for access to confidential medical information to
6 fulfill professional duties.

7 **Sec. 2.** RCW 70.24.340 and 1988 c 206 s 703 are each amended to
8 read as follows:

9 (1) Local health departments authorized under this chapter shall
10 conduct or cause to be conducted pretest counseling, HIV testing, and
11 posttest counseling of all persons:

12 (a) Convicted of, or found by a juvenile court to have committed,
13 a sexual offense under chapter 9A.44 RCW;

14 (b) Convicted of prostitution or offenses relating to prostitution
15 under chapter 9A.88 RCW; or

16 (c) Convicted of drug offenses under chapter 69.50 RCW if the court
17 determines at the time of conviction that the related drug offense is
18 one associated with the use of hypodermic needles.

19 (2) Such testing shall be conducted as soon as possible after
20 sentencing and shall be so ordered by the sentencing judge.

21 (3) Upon request of the victim, or the victim's guardian if the
22 victim is under fourteen years of age, the local health department
23 shall disclose the test results of a person convicted of, or found by
24 a juvenile court to have committed, a sexual offense under chapter
25 9A.44 RCW or RCW 9A.64.020.

26 (4) This section applies only to offenses committed after March 23,
27 1988.

28 ~~((4))~~ (5) A law enforcement officer, fire fighter, health care
29 provider, health care facility staff person, or other categories of
30 employment determined by the board in rule to be at risk of substantial
31 exposure to HIV, who has experienced a substantial exposure to another
32 person's bodily fluids in the course of his or her employment, may
33 request a state or local public health officer to order pretest
34 counseling, HIV testing, and posttest counseling for the person whose
35 bodily fluids he or she has been exposed to. The person who is subject
36 to the order shall be given written notice of the order promptly,
37 personally, and confidentially, stating the grounds and provisions of
38 the order, including the factual basis therefor. If the person who is

1 subject to the order refuses to comply, the state or local public
2 health officer may petition the superior court for a hearing. The
3 standard of review for the order is whether substantial exposure
4 occurred and whether that exposure presents a possible risk of
5 transmission of the HIV virus as defined by the board by rule. Upon
6 conclusion of the hearing, the court shall issue the appropriate order.
7 The state or local public health officer shall perform counseling and
8 testing under this subsection if he or she finds that the exposure was
9 substantial and presents a possible risk as defined by the board of
10 health by rule.

11 (6) Victims of a sexual offense as defined in chapter 9A.44 RCW or
12 RCW 9A.64.020 shall receive, upon request to their county health
13 department, counseling and HIV testing as defined in RCW 70.24.320.

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