
HOUSE BILL 1278

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Pearson and Hurst

Read first time 01/16/09. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a process for providing notice to
2 a contact persons in the event a person is injured and requires
3 emergency care; and adding a new section to chapter 43.24 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.24 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The department shall publish notice at its offices and on its
8 web site that the department provides and maintains an electronic
9 registry where a person may enter the name of a contact person to be
10 contacted in the event the person is in need of or receives emergency
11 care as the result of an accident, criminal act, or other cause.

12 (2) A person who volunteers to enter on the department's electronic
13 registry the name of a contact person to be contacted in the event the
14 person is in need of or receives emergency care shall enter the first
15 and last name of the contact person to be contacted, the contact
16 person's phone number, including area code, and the relationship of the
17 contact person to the person. The person shall also enter on the
18 electronic registry personal information about himself or herself that
19 is the same as information required from an applicant for a driver's

1 license or identicard. The person may enter subsequent changes to the
2 electronic registry in order to update or correct the person's
3 emergency contact information or personal information.

4 (3) The electronic registry must be readily available for
5 electronic access by law enforcement officers and health care
6 providers.

7 (4) The first law enforcement officer or health care provider who
8 determines that an injured person is in need of emergency care or who
9 provides emergency care to a person injured as the result of an
10 accident, criminal act, or other cause shall make a good faith effort
11 within a reasonable time to access the electronic registry and contact
12 the person designated as the contact person by the injured person at
13 the phone number designated for the contact person on the electronic
14 registry.

15 (5) A law enforcement officer or health care provider who makes
16 contact with a contact person at the phone number designated for the
17 contact person on the electronic registry shall confirm the identity of
18 the person as the contact person and shall provide that contact person
19 with only the name of the injured person, the general location of the
20 injured person, and, if known, where the injured person is to be
21 transferred. The law enforcement officer or health care provider shall
22 also provide the contact person with the law enforcement officer's or
23 health care provider's name and agency or organization by which he or
24 she is employed.

25 (6) Any person, including the department and its employees, and any
26 law enforcement officer or health care provider complying with this
27 section who contacts a person designated as a contact person on the
28 electronic registry at the phone number designated for the contact
29 person on the electronic registry is not liable for civil damages
30 resulting from any act or omission in providing or attempting to
31 provide notice to a contact person in the event the person is injured
32 and requires emergency care, other than acts or omissions constituting
33 gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

34 (7) For the purposes of this section:

35 (a) "Emergency care" means first aid, care, treatment, or
36 assistance rendered to an injured person in need of immediate medical
37 attention and includes providing or arranging for further medical care
38 or treatment for the injured person.

1 (b) "Health care provider" means a health professional, hospital,
2 or other institution, organization, or person that furnishes health
3 care services and is licensed to furnish these health care services,
4 including medical, surgical, dental, hospital, ambulance, and other
5 health care services.

6 (c) "Law enforcement officer" means any general authority
7 Washington peace officer, limited authority Washington peace officer,
8 or specially commissioned Washington peace officer, as those terms are
9 defined in RCW 10.93.020.

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