

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0015

Violent injuries-reporting requirements.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Gingery

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to reporting of violent injuries;  
2 authorizing certain health care practitioners to report  
3 injuries to local law enforcement authorities as specified;  
4 providing contents of the notice; prohibiting interference  
5 with the reporting; and providing for an effective date.

6

7 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

8

9 **Section 1.** W.S. 35-4-901 is created to read:

10

11

ARTICLE 9

12

AUTHORIZED REPORTING

13

14 **35-4-901. Authorized reporting of violent injuries.**

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16 (a) In compliance with the Health Insurance  
17 Portability and Accountability Act, 42 U.S.C. 1320d et

1 seq., any health care practitioner employed in a health  
2 facility, clinic, physician's office, local or state public  
3 health department, a clinic or other type of facility  
4 operated by a local or state public health department who,  
5 in the practitioner's professional capacity or within the  
6 scope of the practitioner's employment, provides medical  
7 services for a patient may immediately make a report in  
8 accordance with subsection (c) of this section for:

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10 (i) Any person suffering from any wound or other  
11 physical injury inflicted by the person's own act or  
12 inflicted by another where the injury is by means of a  
13 firearm;

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15 (ii) Any person suffering from any nonaccidental  
16 wounds caused by knives, axes or other sharp or pointed  
17 instruments;

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19 (iii) Any person suffering from any wound or  
20 other physical injury inflicted upon the person where the  
21 injury is the result of assaultive or abusive conduct if  
22 the victim agrees to the reporting.

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1           (b) Any health care practitioner authorized to report  
2 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall make a  
3 report to a local law enforcement agency as follows:

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5           (i) A report by telephone shall be made  
6 immediately or as soon as practically possible;

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8           (ii) The report shall include the following  
9 minimum information, if known to the person reporting:

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11                   (A) The name of the injured person;

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13                   (B) The injured person's whereabouts;

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15                   (C) The character and extent of the  
16 person's injuries.

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18           (c) For the purposes of this section, "injury" shall  
19 not include any psychological or physical condition brought  
20 about solely through the voluntary administration of a  
21 narcotic or restricted dangerous drug.

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23           (d) When two (2) or more persons who are authorized  
24 to report pursuant to this section and are present and

1 jointly have knowledge of a known or suspected instance of  
2 violence that is authorized to be reported pursuant to this  
3 section, and when there is an agreement among these persons  
4 to report as a team, the team may select by mutual  
5 agreement a member of the team to make the report. A member  
6 of the team who has knowledge that the member designated to  
7 report has failed to do so shall make the report. The  
8 reporting duties under this section are individual, except  
9 as provided in this subsection.

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11 (e) No supervisor or administrator shall impede or  
12 inhibit the reporting duties authorized under this section  
13 and no person making a report pursuant to this section  
14 shall be subject to any sanction for making the report.  
15 However, internal procedures to facilitate reporting and  
16 apprise supervisors and administrators of reports may be  
17 established, except that these procedures shall not be  
18 inconsistent with this section.

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20 (f) Nothing in this section shall relieve a person of  
21 his duty to report under W.S. 14-3-205 or 35-20-103.

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1       **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2013.

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(END)