

State of Arkansas  
91st General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: H2/10/17  
**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1045

By: Representatives B. Smith, Brown, Lemons, Payton, Richmond

### For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING CRIMINAL VICTIM NOTIFICATION;  
CONCERNING THE RELEASE OF A PERSON WHO COMMITTED A  
CRIMINAL ACT AND WAS ADJUDICATED TO HAVE A MENTAL  
DISEASE OR DEFECT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

CONCERNING CRIMINAL VICTIM NOTIFICATION;  
AND CONCERNING THE RELEASE OF A PERSON  
WHO COMMITTED A CRIMINAL ACT AND WAS  
ADJUDICATED TO HAVE A MENTAL DISEASE OR  
DEFECT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 12-12-1201 is amended to read as follows:  
12-12-1201. Authorization.

The Arkansas Crime Information Center is authorized to develop and  
operate a computerized victim notification system which shall provide:

(1) A mechanism for victims of criminal offenses or the victim's  
next of kin to access information about proceedings in the criminal justice  
and corrections systems by use of a twenty-four-hour toll-free in-watts  
telephone service; and

(2) Automatic notification by computerized telephone service to  
the victims of criminal offenses or the victim's next of kin ~~about~~ of:

(A) an An inmate's, parolee's, or probationer's status,  
including the location of the inmate, parolee, or probationer; and

(B) A person's release or modification of a conditional



release from the custody of the Arkansas State Hospital, a local or regional hospital, a local or regional mental health facility, or a local or regional jail to which the person has been committed by a court when the person committed a criminal act against the victim but was adjudicated in the criminal case to have a mental disease or defect under § 5-2-301 et seq.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 12-12-1202 is amended to read as follows:  
12-12-1202. Information provided.

(a) A victim notification may be accomplished by means of the computerized victim notification system established under § 12-12-1201 if the notification is required under:

- (1) Section 12-29-114, pertaining to escape;
- (2) Section 16-21-106, pertaining to assistance to victims and witnesses of crimes;
- (3) Section 16-93-204, pertaining to executive clemency;
- (4) Section 16-93-615, pertaining to transfer hearings;
- (5) Section 16-93-702, pertaining to parole; ~~or~~
- (6) Section 16-97-102, pertaining to sentencing; or
- (7) Section 5-2-315, pertaining to discharge or conditional release from a commitment by a court to the Arkansas State Hospital.

(b) The computerized victim notification system established under § 12-12-1201 shall also include:

(1) Information about an inmate's custody status in regard to furloughs, work release, and community correction programs, if applicable; ~~and~~

(2) Information about a person who was committed to the Arkansas State Hospital due to his or her having a mental disease or defect under § 5-2-301 et seq. in regard to the status of the person being discharged or conditionally released under § 5-2-315, including the location and name of the local or regional hospital, local or regional mental health facility, or local or regional jail in which the person is committed if the person is not being held at the Arkansas State Hospital; and

~~(2)(3)~~ (3) The location of information publicly available under § 12-27-145.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 16-90-1109 is amended to read as follows:

16-90-1109. Information concerning confinement or commitment.

(a)(1) Upon request of the victim, the Department of Correction, the Arkansas State Hospital, and any a local or regional hospital, local or regional mental health facility, or any other facility to which the defendant is committed by the court shall:

~~(1)~~(A) Promptly inform the victim, through the use of the victim notification system under § 12-12-1201 et seq. or other method of personal communication, of the estimated date of the defendant's release from confinement from a court-ordered commitment under § 5-2-301 et seq., if reasonably ascertainable;

~~(2)~~(B) Inform the victim at least thirty (30) days before release of the defendant on furlough or to a ~~work-release~~ work release, halfway house, or other community program, if applicable; and

(C) Inform the victim as soon as possible but preferably at least thirty (30) days before release of the defendant from a local or regional hospital or local or regional mental health facility, if applicable; and

~~(3)~~(D) Promptly inform the victim of the occurrence of any of the following events concerning the defendant:

~~(A)~~(i) An escape from a correctional or mental health facility or community program;

~~(B)~~(ii) A recapture;

~~(C)~~(iii) A decision of the Governor to commute the sentence or to pardon;

~~(D)~~(iv) A release from confinement and any conditions attached to the release; ~~and~~

(v) A discharge or conditional release or modification of a previously ordered conditional release from a court-ordered commitment under § 5-2-315; or

~~(E)~~(vi) The defendant's death.

(2) The requirement to inform a victim by a local or regional hospital or a local or regional mental health facility under this subsection may be accomplished by notifying by telephone or other electronic means the Arkansas State Hospital of the change of status of the defendant, and the Arkansas State Hospital shall then notify the victim through the victim notification system under § 12-12-1201 et seq. or other method of personal

communication.

*(b)(1) At least thirty (30) days before a Parole Board hearing concerning the defendant, if requested by the victim, the board shall inform the victim of the hearing and of the victim's right to submit to the board a victim impact statement and shall promptly inform the victim of any decision of the board.*

*(2)(A) It is the responsibility of the victim or his or her next of kin to notify the board of any change in address or telephone number.*

*(B) It is the responsibility of the victim or his or her next of kin to notify the board after the date of commitment of any change in regard to the desire to be notified of any future parole hearings.*

*/s/B. Smith*

**APPROVED: 03/09/2017**