

Fifty-seventh
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1044

Introduced by

Legislative Council

(Criminal Justice Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 12-47-36 and 12-59-04 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to open records and parole records of the department of corrections and
3 rehabilitation; and to declare an emergency.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 12-47-36 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **12-47-36. Records ~~confidential~~ exempt - Confidential - Exceptions.**

8 1. The case history records of the department of corrections and rehabilitation or its
9 divisions or departments relating to persons in the custody or under the
10 supervision and management of the division of adult services of the department of
11 corrections and rehabilitation are exempt records as defined in section 44-04-17.1.
12 Upon application to the district court, with service of the application on the
13 department of corrections and rehabilitation and opportunity for the department to
14 submit a written response, the court may order the inspection of a case history
15 record unless there is a showing by the department of corrections and
16 rehabilitation that a proper and legitimate reason exists for denying inspection of
17 the case history record. If the court issues an order allowing inspection, the court
18 shall allow the department of corrections and rehabilitation to remove all identifying
19 information that may create a risk of harm to property or to any person. As used in
20 this section, "case history record" means any record of a person in the custody or
21 under the supervision and management of the division of adult services of the
22 department of corrections and rehabilitation except for medical, psychological, and
23 treatment records and legal files. The term includes inmate disciplinary
24 proceedings, administrative and disciplinary segregation placements, institutional

1 and criminal investigation reports, supervision histories, job placements, education
2 programs, inmate financial accounts under section 12-48-15, and protective
3 management cases.

4 2. The medical, psychological, and treatment, ~~or social~~ records of the department of
5 corrections and rehabilitation or its divisions or departments relating to persons in
6 the custody or under the supervision and management of the division of adult
7 services of the department of corrections and rehabilitation must be kept are
8 confidential, and may not be disclosed directly or indirectly to any person,
9 organization, or agency, except as otherwise provided in this section. A district
10 court may order the inspection of ~~such~~ medical, psychological, and treatment
11 records, or parts of ~~such~~ those records, upon application to the court and a
12 showing that there is a proper and legitimate purpose for the inspection of the
13 records, with service of the application on the department of corrections and
14 rehabilitation and opportunity for the department of corrections and rehabilitation to
15 submit a written response.

16 3. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law relating to privilege or confidentiality, and
17 except for the confidentiality requirements of federal drug and alcohol treatment
18 and rehabilitation laws, records may be inspected by or disclosed to the following
19 persons, organizations, or agencies without prior application to the court may
20 inspect case history, medical, psychological, or treatment records: the

21 a. The governor; ~~the~~

22 b. The pardon advisory board, if the governor has appointed a pardon advisory
23 board; ~~the~~

24 c. The parole board; ~~any~~

25 d. Any division, department, official, or employee of the department of
26 corrections and rehabilitation; ~~another~~

27 e. Another state receiving a parolee or probationer under the provisions of
28 chapter 12-56 or 12-56.1; ~~a~~

29 f. A federal, state, regional, or county correctional facility receiving physical
30 custody of a person under the legal custody of the department of corrections
31 and rehabilitation; ~~the~~

- 1 g. The employees in the office of the attorney general and investigators,
2 consultants, or experts retained by the state; ~~the~~
- 3 h. The risk management division of the office of management and budget for the
4 purpose of investigating and defending actions or claims under chapter
5 32-12.2; ~~the state's attorney and~~
- 6 i. The district court of the county where the judgment of conviction was entered;
7 a
- 8 j. A state or federal court where a person in the custody or under the
9 supervision and management of the adult services division of the department
10 of corrections and rehabilitation has commenced litigation and the records are
11 relevant to the litigation; ~~or municipal, county, state, or federal law~~
12 ~~enforcement agencies~~
- 13 k. A criminal justice agency as defined in section 44-04-18.7; or
- 14 l. The United States social security administration and veterans administration.
- 15 4. Records with respect to the person's identity, location, legal files except records
16 under court seal, criminal convictions, or projected date of release, except for the
17 records of a person who is under protective management, are open records.
- 18 5. Medical, psychological, or treatment records may be disclosed without prior
19 application to the court to a public hospital or treatment facility, the department of
20 human services, or to a licensed private medical or treatment facility, when
21 necessary for the evaluation, treatment, or care of a person who is or who has
22 been in the custody of, or is or who has been under the supervision and
23 management of, the adult services division of the department of corrections and
24 rehabilitation.
- 25 6. A criminal defendant's presentence investigation report, together with any
26 attachment or addendum, is subject to rule 32 of the North Dakota Rules of
27 Criminal Procedure and any amendments made thereto.
- 28 7. The parole board may permit the inspection of a person's preparole report, or parts
29 of the report, prepared for the parole board. ~~The employment status of a person in~~
30 ~~the custody of or under the supervision and management of the department of~~
31 ~~corrections and rehabilitation may be disclosed to an agency or official charged~~

1 ~~with the enforcement of child support. Medical, psychological, or treatment~~
2 ~~records may be disclosed without prior application to the court to a public hospital~~
3 ~~or treatment facility, the department of human services, or to a licensed private~~
4 ~~medical or treatment facility, when necessary for the evaluation, treatment, or care~~
5 ~~of a person in the custody or under the supervision of the department of~~
6 ~~corrections and rehabilitation.~~

7 8. Any person, organization, or agency receiving exempt or confidential records
8 under this section shall maintain the closed or confidential nature of the records
9 and may not redisclose the records.

10 9. The department of corrections and rehabilitation shall maintain the confidentiality
11 of witness protection program records and legal files under seal.

12 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 12-59-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is
13 amended and reenacted as follows:

14 **12-59-04. ~~Records confidential~~ Parole records - Inspection.** All parole records of
15 the department of corrections and rehabilitation records, including preparole reports, and the
16 supervision history, obtained in the discharge of official duty by any member of the parole board
17 or employee of a division or department of the department of corrections and rehabilitation, ~~are~~
18 ~~confidential and~~ on behalf of the parole board may not be disclosed except in the manner
19 provided under section 12-47-36. An application for parole and the decision of the parole board
20 on the application are open records.

21 **SECTION 3. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.