

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL 503

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE PUBLIC PEACE, HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE;
REQUIRING RESIDENTIAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FACILITIES TO NOTIFY A
NEW PATIENT'S FAMILY THAT THE PATIENT HAS BEEN ADMITTED TO THE
FACILITY; PRESCRIBING PENALTIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] RESIDENTIAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
FACILITIES--FAMILY NOTIFICATION--CIVIL PENALTIES.--

A. A residential behavioral health facility shall
not admit a patient for residential treatment without obtaining
or providing evidence that the facility has attempted to obtain
contact information for a family member of the patient. If the
patient provides the contact information, the residential
behavioral health facility shall make immediate efforts to
provide the patient with the opportunity to notify the

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1 patient's family member that the patient has been admitted.
2 The residential behavioral health facility shall continue to
3 make efforts to provide the patient with the opportunity to
4 notify the patient's family member until the patient's family
5 member is notified that the patient has been admitted.

6 B. A residential behavioral health facility that
7 fails to comply with the requirements of this section shall be
8 assessed a civil penalty not to exceed seven hundred fifty
9 dollars (\$750). For any subsequent violation of this section,
10 the residential behavioral health facility shall be assessed a
11 civil penalty not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

12 C. For the purposes of this section, "residential
13 behavioral health facility" means a licensed health facility
14 that provides residential treatment to patients with behavioral
15 health issues.