



27 advocacy organizations, and domestic violence referral  
28 organizations and their respective facilities is confidential  
29 and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1).

30 (2) Information about domestic violence center, domestic  
31 violence advocacy organization, or domestic violence referral  
32 service clients may not be disclosed without the written consent  
33 of the client to whom the information or records pertain. For  
34 the purpose of state law regarding searches and seizures,  
35 domestic violence centers, domestic violence advocacy  
36 organizations, and domestic violence referral services shall be  
37 treated as private dwelling places. Information about a client  
38 or the location of a domestic violence center, a domestic  
39 violence advocacy organization, or a domestic violence referral  
40 service may be given by ~~center~~ staff or volunteers of such a  
41 center or organization to law enforcement, firefighting,  
42 medical, or other personnel in the following circumstances:

43 (a) To medical personnel in a medical emergency.

44 (b) Upon a court order based upon an application by a law  
45 enforcement officer for a criminal arrest warrant which alleges  
46 that the individual sought to be arrested is located at the  
47 domestic violence shelter, advocacy organization, or referral  
48 service.

49 (c) Upon a search warrant that specifies the individual or  
50 object of the search and alleges that the individual or object  
51 is located at the shelter, advocacy organization, or referral  
52 service.

53 (d) To firefighting personnel in a fire emergency.

54 (e) To any other person necessary to maintain the safety  
 55 and health standards in the domestic violence shelter, advocacy  
 56 organization, or referral service.

57 (f) Information solely about the location of the domestic  
 58 violence shelter, advocacy organization, or referral service may  
 59 be given to those with whom the agency has an established  
 60 business relationship.

61 (3) The restriction on the disclosure or use of the  
 62 information about domestic violence center, advocacy  
 63 organization, or referral service clients does not apply to:

64 (a) Communications from domestic violence shelter,   
 65 advocacy organization, or referral service staff or volunteers  
 66 to law enforcement officers when the information is directly  
 67 related to a client's commission of a crime or threat to commit  
 68 a crime on the premises of a domestic violence shelter, advocacy  
 69 organization, or referral service; or

70 (b) Reporting suspected abuse of a child or a vulnerable  
 71 adult as required by law. However, when cooperating with  
 72 protective investigation services staff, the domestic violence  
 73 shelter, advocacy organization, or referral service staff and  
 74 volunteers must protect the confidentiality of other clients at  
 75 the domestic violence center, advocacy organization, or referral  
 76 service.

77 Section 2. The amendments made by this act to s. 39.908,  
 78 Florida Statutes, are subject to the Open Government Sunset

79 Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15, Florida Statutes, and  
80 shall stand repealed on October 2, 2020, unless reviewed and  
81 saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature, and  
82 the text of that section shall revert to that in existence  
83 immediately before the effective date of the amendments made by  
84 this act, except that any amendments to such text enacted other  
85 than by this act shall be preserved and continue to operate to  
86 the extent that such amendments are not dependent upon the  
87 portions of text that are repealed pursuant to this section.

88       Section 3. The Legislature finds that it is a public  
89 necessity that information received by the Department of  
90 Children and Families or by authorized persons employed by or  
91 volunteering services to a domestic violence advocacy  
92 organization or a domestic violence referral service about  
93 clients of a domestic violence advocacy organization or domestic  
94 violence referral service, be made confidential and exempt from  
95 s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the  
96 State Constitution. Domestic violence advocacy organizations and  
97 domestic violence referral services act to protect their  
98 clients, who are victims of domestic violence, from those who  
99 victimized them. If the individuals who victimized these clients  
100 were able to learn client information, they may attempt to  
101 contact their victims and continue their victimization. The  
102 Legislature recognizes that protection is needed for victims of  
103 domestic violence who are attempting to escape from domestic  
104 violence and to prevent harm from assailants or probable

105 assailants who are attempting to find them. The Legislature's  
106 intent is that these victims receive that protection by making  
107 the information referenced in this act confidential and exempt.

108 Section 4. This act shall take effect on the same date  
109 that HB 125 or similar legislation relating to domestic violence  
110 advocacy organizations and referral services takes effect, if  
111 such legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or  
112 an extension thereof and becomes a law.