

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 57th Legislature (2020)

SENATE BILL 1485

By: McCortney

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to medical-legal partnerships; defining terms; requiring collaboration between the State Department of Health and certain entities to develop standards and guidelines for certain programs; providing entities eligible to operate certain programs; requiring compliance with certain standards and guidelines; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-610 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. As used in this section:

1. "Eligible organization" means an entity that:

a. is organized as a nonprofit corporation that is tax exempt pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (3) of subsection (c) of Section 501 of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended,

b. has as its primary purpose the furnishing of legal assistance to eligible clients,

- 1 c. has a board of directors or other governing body the
2 majority of which is comprised of attorneys who are
3 admitted to practice law in this state and who are
4 approved to serve on such body by the governing bodies
5 of the state or county bar associations, and
6 d. is incorporated pursuant to any applicable laws of
7 this state; and

8 2. "Medical-legal partnership" means a program that is a
9 collaboration between health care service providers and eligible
10 regional or statewide organizations that provide legal services to
11 indigent persons to provide on-site legal services without charge to
12 assist eligible patients and their families to resolve legal matters
13 or needs that have an impact on patient health or are created or
14 aggravated by a patient's health. For the purpose of this section,
15 legal matters may include, but not be limited to:

- 16 a. housing, including utilities,
17 b. public or private health insurance coverage,
18 c. employment and eligibility for employment benefits,
19 d. government benefits including, but not limited to, Social
20 Security and Veteran Affairs,
21 e. family law matters including, but not limited to, domestic
22 violence, guardianship, child custody and child support,
23 f. advance planning including, but not limited to, wills,
24 health care proxies, powers of attorney and permanency planning, and

1 g. debtor and creditor issues.

2 B. The State Department of Health shall work with eligible
3 organizations, community health advocacy organizations, hospitals,
4 diagnostic and treatment centers and other primary and specialty
5 health care providers to establish standards and guidelines for
6 medical-legal partnership programs established pursuant to this
7 section. The Department may designate medical-legal partnership
8 programs that comply with standards and guidelines established for
9 such programs. A medical-legal partnership program may be operated
10 by or affiliated with eligible organizations, law schools, social
11 services organizations or health care providers. Such partnership
12 program shall comply with the standards, guidelines and regulations
13 promulgated pursuant to this section.

14 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2020.

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