

By: Senator(s) Ross

To: Judiciary

SENATE BILL NO. 2207

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-15-21, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO CREATE A NEW FELONY OFFENSE OF INTENTIONAL FALSIFICATION OR
3 DESTRUCTION OF RECORDS INVOLVED IN A CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATION;
4 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

6 SECTION 1. Section 43-15-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 43-15-21. (1) Anyone violating or releasing information of
9 a confidential nature without the approval of the court with
10 jurisdiction or the Department of Human Services upon being found
11 guilty shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of
12 no more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisonment of
13 six (6) months, or both.

14 (2) In any matter involving an investigation of child abuse
15 by the Department of Human Services or a governmental law
16 enforcement agency of the State of Mississippi, anyone who
17 intentionally falsifies documents, gives a false statement, or
18 destroys records shall be guilty of a felony and subject to a fine
19 of no more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) or imprisonment
20 of not more than five (5) years, or both. This provision shall
21 not apply to a party to a judicial proceeding, or that party's
22 counsel, for representations or documents made to or submitted to
23 a judge or magistrate in that proceeding.

24 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
25 and after July 1, 1999.