

U and Universal

On May 26, 2015, Governor Pat McCrory signed Senate Bill 445, also known as Burt's Law.

The law is named after Burt Powell, a 37 year old man who was sexually abused over the course of a year by a male staff member at a Conover group home. Workers at the home knew about the abuse but did not report it. Burt described the abuse to his mother who wanted to take it to court, but the suspect died from a heart attack just days before Burt was to tell his story to the police. Burt's parents pursued this law to protect others and keep group homes safe.

Burt's Law requires any person, either staff member or volunteer, who witnesses a group home resident being sexually assaulted to report the offense to DSS, law enforcement and the District Attorney. Failure to do so within 24 hours will result in a Class A1 misdemeanor. The law also increases the penalty for those who intentionally injure special needs adults at a facility.

More info on Burt's Law can be found at www.leg.net/sessions

Did You Know?

In addition to W2s, employees will also receive a 1095 this year that relates to the Affordable Care Act. The 1095 will need to be provided when individuals file their 2015 tax returns. Both the W2s and the 1095 will be mailed to employees by 1/31/16 as required by law which means that they should arrive by mail to employee homes during the first week of February.

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