

UTAH MEDICAL CANDOR ACT

2022 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Merrill F. Nelson

Senate Sponsor: Michael S. Kennedy

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill enacts the Utah Medical Candor Act.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- creates a medical candor process where a health care provider may investigate an injury, or suspected injury, associated with a health care process and may communicate information about the investigation to the patient and any representative of the patient;
- addresses written notice of the medical candor process;
- addresses an offer of compensation made as part of the medical candor process; and
- addresses confidentiality, disclosure, and effect of communications made in preparation for or during the medical candor process.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

78B-3-450, Utah Code Annotated 1953



[78B-3-451](#), Utah Code Annotated 1953
[78B-3-452](#), Utah Code Annotated 1953
[78B-3-453](#), Utah Code Annotated 1953
[78B-3-454](#), Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **78B-3-450** is enacted to read:

Part 4a. Utah Medical Candor Act

78B-3-450. Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Adverse event" means an injury or suspected injury that is associated with a health care process rather than an underlying condition of a patient or a disease.

(2) "Affected party" means:

(a) a patient; and

(b) any representative of a patient.

(3) "Communication" means any written or oral communication made in preparation of or during the medical candor process.

(4) "Governmental entity" means the same as that term is defined in Section [63G-7-102](#).

(5) "Health care" means the same as that term is defined in Section [78B-3-403](#).

(6) "Health care provider" means the same as that term is defined in Section [78B-3-403](#).

(7) "Malpractice action against a health provider" means the same as that term is defined in Section [78B-3-403](#).

(8) "Medical candor process" means the process described in Section [78B-3-451](#).

(9) "Patient" means the same as that term is defined in Section [78B-3-403](#).

(10) "Public employee" means the same as the term "employee" as defined in Section [63G-7-102](#).

(11) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (11)(c), "representative" means the same as that term is defined in Section [78B-3-403](#).

(b) "Representative" includes:

59 (i) a parent of a child regardless of whether the parent is the custodial or noncustodial
60 parent;

61 (ii) a legal guardian of a child;

62 (iii) a person designated to make decisions on behalf of a patient under a power of
63 attorney, an advanced health care directive, or a similar legal document; and

64 (iv) a default surrogate as defined in Section [75-2a-108](#).

65 (c) "Representative" does not include a parent of a child if the parent's parental rights
66 have been terminated by a court.

67 (12) "State" means the same as that term is defined in Section [63G-7-102](#).

68 Section 2. Section **78B-3-451** is enacted to read:

69 **78B-3-451. Medical candor process.**

70 In accordance with this part, a health care provider may engage an affected party in a
71 process where the health care provider and any other health care provider notified in
72 Subsection [78B-3-452](#)(1)(b) that chooses to participate in the process:

73 (1) conducts an investigation into an adverse event involving a patient and the health
74 care provided to the patient;

75 (2) communicates information to the affected party regarding information gathered
76 during an investigation described in Subsection (1);

77 (3) communicates to the affected party the steps that the health care provider will take
78 to prevent future occurrences of the adverse event; and

79 (4) determines whether to make an offer of compensation to the affected party for the
80 adverse event.

81 Section 3. Section **78B-3-452** is enacted to read:

82 **78B-3-452. Notice of medical candor process.**

83 (1) If a health care provider wishes to engage an affected party in the medical candor
84 process, the health care provider shall:

85 (a) provide a written notice described in Subsection (2) to the affected party within 365
86 days after the day on which the health care provider knew of the adverse event involving the
87 patient;

88 (b) provide a written notice, in timely manner, to any other health care provider
89 involved in the adverse event that invites the health care provider to participate in the medical

candor process; and

(c) inform, in a timely manner, any health care provider described in Subsection (1)(b) of an affected party's decision of whether to participate in the medical candor process.

(2) A written notice under Subsection (1)(a) shall:

(a) include an explanation of:

(i) the patient's right to receive a copy of the patient's medical records related to the adverse event; and

(ii) the patient's right to authorize the release of the patient's medical records related to the adverse event to any third party;

(b) include a statement regarding the affected party's right to seek legal counsel at the affected party's expense and to have legal counsel present throughout the medical candor process;

(c) notify the affected party that there are time limitations for a malpractice action against a health care provider and that the medical candor process does not alter or extend the time limitations for a malpractice action against a health care provider;

(d) if the health care provider is a public employee or a governmental entity, notify the affected party that participation in the medical candor process does not alter or extend the deadline for filing the notice of claim required under Section [63G-7-401](#);

(e) notify the affected party that, if the affected party chooses to participate in the medical candor process with a health care provider, any written or oral communication made in preparation for or during the medical candor process, including a written or oral communication to participate in the medical candor process, is confidential, not discoverable, and inadmissible as evidence in a judicial, administrative, or arbitration proceeding arising out of the adverse event; and

(f) advise the affected party that the affected party, the health care provider, and any other person that participates in the medical candor process must agree, in writing, to the terms and conditions of the medical candor process in order to participate in the medical candor process.

(3) If, after receiving a written notice, an affected party wishes to participate in the medical candor process, the affected party must agree, in writing, to the terms and conditions provided in the written notice described in Subsection (2).

(4) If an affected party agrees to participate in the medical candor process, the affected party and the health care provider may include another person in the medical candor process if:

(a) the person receives written notice in accordance with this section; and

(b) the person agrees, in writing, to the terms and conditions provided in the written notice described in Subsection (2).

Section 4. Section **78B-3-453** is enacted to read:

78B-3-453. Nonparticipating health care providers -- Offer of compensation -- Payment.

(1) If any communications during the medical candor process involve a health care provider that was notified under Subsection [78B-3-451\(1\)\(b\)](#) but the health care provider is not participating in the medical candor process, a participating health care provider:

(a) may provide only information from the medical record to the affected party regarding any health care provided by the nonparticipating health care provider;

(b) may not characterize, describe, or evaluate health care provided or not provided by the nonparticipating health care provider; and

(c) may not attribute fault, blame, or responsibility for the adverse event to the nonparticipating health care provider.

(2) (a) If a health care provider determines that no offer of compensation is warranted during the medical candor process, the health care provider may orally communicate that decision to the affected party.

(b) If a health care provider determines that an offer of compensation is warranted during the medical candor process, the health care provider shall provide the affected party with a written offer of compensation.

(3) If a health care provider makes an offer of compensation to an affected party of the medical candor process and the affected party is not represented by legal counsel, the health care provider shall:

(a) advise the affected party of the affected party's right to seek legal counsel, at the affected party's expense, regarding the offer of compensation; and

(b) notify the affected party that the affected party may be legally required to repay medical and other expenses that were paid by a third party, including private health insurance, Medicare, or Medicaid.

152 (4) (a) All parties to an offer of compensation shall negotiate the form of the relevant
153 documents.

154 (b) As a condition of an offer of compensation under this section, a health care
155 provider may require an affected party to:

156 (i) execute any document that is necessary to carry out an agreement between the
157 parties regarding the offer of compensation; and

158 (ii) if court approval is required for compensation to a minor, obtain court approval for
159 the offer of compensation.

160 (5) If an affected party accepts and receives an offer of compensation as part of the
161 medical candor process and the affected party did not previously present a written claim or
162 demand for payment, the payment of compensation to the affected party is not a payment
163 resulting from:

164 (a) a written claim or demand for payment; or

165 (b) a professional liability claim or a settlement for purposes of Sections [58-67-302](#),
166 [58-67-302.7](#), [58-68-302](#), and [58-71-302](#).

167 Section 5. Section **78B-3-454** is enacted to read:

168 **78B-3-454. Confidentiality and effect of medical candor process -- Recording of**
169 **medical candor process -- Exception for deidentified information or data.**

170 (1) All communications, materials, and information in any form created or provided in
171 preparation of or during a medical candor process, including the findings or conclusions of the
172 investigation and any offer of compensation, are confidential and privileged in any
173 administrative, judicial, or arbitration proceeding.

174 (2) A communication or offer of compensation made in preparation for or during the
175 medical candor process does not constitute an admission of liability.

176 (3) Nothing in this part alters or limits the confidential, privileged, or protected nature
177 of communications, information, memoranda, work product, documents, and other materials
178 under other provisions of law.

179 (4) (a) Notwithstanding Section [77-23a-4](#), a party to a medical candor process may not
180 record any communication without the mutual consent of all parties to the medical candor
181 process.

182 (b) A recording made without mutual consent of all parties to the medical candor

process may not be used for any purpose.

(c) If a recording is made without mutual consent from all parties to the medical candor process, a non-consenting party may recover attorney fees in any civil action regarding the recording.

(5) (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any communication, material, or information created or provided in preparation of or during a medical candor process:

(i) is not subject to reporting requirements by a health care provider; and

(ii) does not create a reporting requirement for a health care provider.

(b) If there are reporting requirements independent of, and supported by, information or evidence other than any communication, material, or information created or provided in preparation of or during a medical candor process, the reporting shall proceed as if there were no communication, material, or information created or provided in preparation of or during the medical candor process.

(c) This Subsection (5) does not release an individual or a health care provider from complying with a reporting requirement.

(6) (a) A health care provider that participates in the medical candor process may provide deidentified information or data about an adverse incident to an agency, company, or organization for the purpose of research, education, patient safety, quality of care, or performance improvement.

(b) Disclosure of deidentified information or data under Subsection (6)(a):

(i) does not constitute a waiver of a privilege or protection of any communication, material, or information created or provided in preparation of or during a medical candor process as provided in this section or any other provision of law; and

(ii) is not a violation of the confidentiality requirements of this section.