

CHAPTER 2018-2

Senate Bill No. 7024

An act relating to public records; amending s. 119.071, F.S.; creating an exemption from public records requirements for the address of a victim of an incident of mass violence; providing definitions; providing for future legislative review and repeal of the exemption; amending s. 119.011, F.S.; designating the address of a victim of an incident of mass violence as criminal intelligence information and criminal investigative information; providing a statement of public necessity; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (o) is added to subsection (2) of section 119.071, Florida Statutes, to read:

119.071 General exemptions from inspection or copying of public records.—

(2) AGENCY INVESTIGATIONS.—

(o) The address of a victim of an incident of mass violence is exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. For purposes of this paragraph, the term “incident of mass violence” means an incident in which four or more people, not including the perpetrator, are severely injured or killed by an intentional and indiscriminate act of violence of another. For purposes of this paragraph, the term “victim” means a person killed or injured during an incident of mass violence, not including the perpetrator. This paragraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2023, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

Section 2. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section 119.011, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

119.011 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

(3)

(c) “Criminal intelligence information” and “criminal investigative information” shall not include:

1. The time, date, location, and nature of a reported crime.
2. The name, sex, age, and address of a person arrested or of the victim of a crime except as provided in s. 119.071(2)(h) or (o).
3. The time, date, and location of the incident and of the arrest.

4. The crime charged.

5. Documents given or required by law or agency rule to be given to the person arrested, except as provided in s. 119.071(2)(h) or (m), and, except that the court in a criminal case may order that certain information required by law or agency rule to be given to the person arrested be maintained in a confidential manner and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) until released at trial if it is found that the release of such information would:

a. Be defamatory to the good name of a victim or witness or would jeopardize the safety of such victim or witness; and

b. Impair the ability of a state attorney to locate or prosecute a codefendant.

6. Informations and indictments except as provided in s. 905.26.

Section 3. The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that the address of victims of an incident of mass violence be made exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. After an incident of mass violence has occurred, victims of such an incident are in a vulnerable state as they assist law enforcement with the investigation of the incident and try to recover from the events that occurred. In some instances, the victim may have been killed or injured leaving their families to deal with the aftermath of the crime. The public availability of such victim's address may be used to locate the victim or the victim's family. The availability of such information has allowed people to take advantage of the victims or their families by subjecting the victims or their families to media intrusions at their homes and other unwelcome intrusions into their privacy. Therefore, it is necessary that the address of victims of incidents of mass violence be protected to ensure that persons affected by such incidents are not harassed, taken advantage of, or otherwise subjected to additional pain and suffering.

Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor March 9, 2018.

Filed in Office Secretary of State March 9, 2018.