

Sixty-sixth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2179

Introduced by

Senators J. Lee, Hogan, Mathern

Representatives K. Koppelman, Kreidt, Roers Jones

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact chapter 6-08.5 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating  
2 to the prevention of financial exploitation; and to amend and reenact section 6-08.1-03 of the  
3 North Dakota Century Code, relating to a financial institution's duty of confidentiality.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 6-08.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **6-08.1-03. Duty of confidentiality.**

8 A financial institution may not disclose customer information to ~~any~~ a person, governmental  
9 agency, or law enforcement agency unless the disclosure is made in accordance with any of the  
10 following:

- 11 1. Pursuant to consent granted by the customer in accordance with this chapter.
- 12 2. To a person other than a governmental agency or law enforcement agency pursuant to  
13 valid legal process.
- 14 3. To a governmental agency or law enforcement agency pursuant to valid legal process  
15 in accordance with this chapter.
- 16 4. For the purpose of reporting a suspected violation of the law in accordance with this  
17 chapter.
- 18 5. For the purpose of notifying the agriculture commissioner ~~that~~ a financial institution  
19 has notified a customer of the availability of the North Dakota mediation service.
- 20 6. As part of the disclosure made of deposits of public corporations with financial  
21 institutions in the security pledge schedule verified by the custodian of securities  
22 pursuant to section 21-04-09.
- 23 7. For purposes of reporting suspected exploitation of an eligible adult as defined by  
24 section 12.1-31-07. ~~Nothing in this~~ This subsection may not be construed to impose

1            upon a duty on a financial institution a duty to investigate an alleged or suspected  
2            exploitation of an eligible adult or to make a report to a governmental agency or law  
3            enforcement agency.

4            8. For purposes of reporting suspected financial exploitation of an eligible adult under  
5            chapter 6-08.5 to a law enforcement agency or the department of human services.  
6            This subsection may not be construed to impose a duty on a financial institution to  
7            investigate a suspected financial exploitation of an eligible adult or to make a report to  
8            the department of human services or law enforcement agency.

9            **SECTION 2.** Chapter 6-08.5 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as  
10 follows:

11            **6-08.5-01. Definitions.**

12            As used in this chapter:

- 13            1. "Account" means funds or assets held by a financial service provider, including a  
14            deposit account, savings account, share account, certificate of deposit, trust account,  
15            individual retirement account, guardianship or conservatorship account, investment or  
16            securities account, retirement account, loan, extension of credit, or safe deposit box.
- 17            2. "Eligible adult" means an individual who is at least sixty-five years of age or a  
18            vulnerable adult as defined in section 50-25.2-01.
- 19            3. "Financial exploitation" means the wrongful or unauthorized taking, withholding,  
20            appropriation, or use of an eligible adult's money, assets, or property for one's own  
21            benefit or the benefit of a third party. The term includes defrauding an eligible adult.
- 22            4. "Financial service provider" means a financial institution, credit union, savings and  
23            loan association, or trust company.
- 24            5. "Financial transaction" means any of the following as applicable to the business or  
25            services provided by a financial service provider:
- 26            a. A transfer or request to transfer or disburse funds or assets in an account;  
27            b. A request to initiate a wire transfer, initiate an automated clearing house transfer,  
28            or issue a money order, cashier's check, or official check;  
29            c. A request to negotiate a check or other negotiable instrument;  
30            d. A request to change the ownership of an account; or  
31            e. A request for a loan, extension of credit, or draw on a line of credit.

1       6. "Law enforcement agency" means an agency authorized by law to enforce the law and  
2       to conduct or engage in investigations or prosecutions for violations of the law.

3       **6-08.5-02. Eligible adult financial exploitation prevention - Duration of refusal or**  
4       **hold - Notification and reporting - Immunity.**

5       1. If a financial service provider has a good faith belief to suspect financial exploitation  
6       occurred, was attempted, or is being attempted, the financial service provider may  
7       refuse a financial transaction or hold a financial transaction on an account:

8       a. Belonging to the eligible adult;

9       b. On which the eligible adult is a beneficiary, including a trust, guardianship, or  
10       conservatorship account; or

11       c. Belonging to a person suspected of perpetrating financial exploitation.

12       2. A financial service provider may refuse a financial transaction or hold a financial  
13       transaction under this section if the department of human services or a law  
14       enforcement agency provides information to the financial service provider  
15       demonstrating it is reasonable to believe financial exploitation occurred, was  
16       attempted, or is being attempted.

17       3. Subsection 2 does not require a financial service provider to refuse a financial  
18       transaction or hold a financial transaction if provided with information by the  
19       department of human services or a law enforcement agency alleging financial  
20       exploitation occurred, was attempted, or is being attempted. Except as ordered by a  
21       court, a financial service provider may determine whether to refuse a financial  
22       transaction or hold a financial transaction based on the information available to the  
23       financial service provider.

24       4. A financial service provider refusing a financial transaction or holding a financial  
25       transaction based on a good faith belief to suspect financial exploitation occurred, was  
26       attempted, or is being attempted shall:

27       a. Except with regard to an account administered by a bank or trust company in a  
28       fiduciary capacity, make a reasonable effort to notify, orally or in writing, one or  
29       more parties authorized to transact business on the account; and

30       b. Report the incident to the department of human services, if the incident involves  
31       financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult as defined in section 50-25.2-01.

- 1        5. Notice under this section is not required to be provided to a party authorized to  
2        conduct business on the account if the party is the suspected perpetrator of financial  
3        exploitation.
- 4        6. A financial service provider, or an employee, officer, or director of a financial service  
5        provider, is immune from all criminal, civil, and administrative liability:
- 6        a. For refusing or not refusing a financial transaction, or for holding or not holding a  
7        financial transaction under this section; or
- 8        b. For actions taken in furtherance of the determination made under subdivision a, if  
9        the determination is based upon a good faith belief financial exploitation  
10       occurred, was attempted, or is being attempted.

11        **6-08.5-03. Reporting to a law enforcement agency or the department of human**  
12       **services - Immunity.**

- 13        1. If a financial service provider, or an employee, officer, or director of a financial service  
14        provider has a good faith belief to suspect financial exploitation of an eligible adult  
15        occurred, was attempted, or is being attempted, the financial service provider, or an  
16        employee, officer, or director of a financial service provider may report the information  
17        to a law enforcement agency or the department of human services.
- 18        2. This section does not impose a duty on a financial institution to investigate a  
19        suspected financial exploitation of an eligible adult or to make a report to a law  
20        enforcement agency or the department of human services.
- 21        3. A financial service provider, or an employee, officer, or director of a financial service  
22        provider, is immune from all criminal, civil, and administrative liability for reporting or  
23        not reporting under this section if the determination is made based on a good faith  
24        belief that financial exploitation occurred, was attempted, or is being attempted.

25        **6-08.5-04. Individuals who may be contacted regarding suspected financial**  
26       **exploitation - Immunity - Exemption from customer consent and notice provisions.**

- 27        1. A financial service provider may offer to an eligible adult the opportunity to submit and  
28        update periodically a list of individuals the eligible adult authorizes the financial service  
29        provider to contact if the financial service provider has reasonable cause to suspect  
30        the eligible adult is a victim or a target of financial exploitation.

- 1       2. Notwithstanding subsection 1, a financial service provider having a good faith belief to  
2       suspect an eligible adult is the victim or target of financial exploitation may convey the  
3       suspicion to one or more of the following individuals, provided the individual is not the  
4       suspected perpetrator:
- 5       a. An individual on the list described in subsection 1.  
6       b. A co-owner, additional authorized signatory, or beneficiary on the eligible adult's  
7       account.
- 8       3. If a financial service provider provides information under this section, the financial  
9       service provider may limit the information, such as disclosing only that the financial  
10      service provider has reasonable cause to suspect the eligible adult may be a victim or  
11      target of financial exploitation, without disclosing any other details or confidential  
12      personal information regarding the financial affairs of the eligible adult.
- 13      4. The financial service provider may choose not to contact an individual on the list  
14      provided under subsection 1, if the financial service provider suspects the individual is  
15      engaged in financial exploitation.
- 16      5. The financial service provider may rely on information provided by the eligible adult in  
17      compiling a list of contact individuals.
- 18      6. A financial service provider, or an employee, officer, or director of a financial service  
19      provider, is immune from all criminal, civil, and administrative liability for contacting an  
20      individual or electing not to contact an individual under this section and for actions  
21      taken in furtherance of that determination if the determination is made based on a  
22      good faith belief financial exploitation occurred, was attempted, or is being attempted.
- 23      7. Contact with an individual, and any information provided under this section, is exempt  
24      from the customer consent provisions in sections 6-08.1-03 and 6-08.1-04.

25      **6-08.5-04. Refusal to accept power of attorney - Immunity.**

- 26      1. A financial service provider may refuse to accept an acknowledged power of attorney if  
27      the financial service provider has a good faith belief to suspect the principal is or may  
28      be the victim or target of financial exploitation by the agent or individual acting for or  
29      with the agent.
- 30      2. A financial service provider, or an employee, officer, or director of a financial service  
31      provider, is immune from all criminal, civil, and administrative liability for refusing to

1           accept a power of attorney or for accepting a power of attorney under this section and  
2           for actions taken in furtherance of that determination if the determination was based  
3           on a good faith belief financial exploitation occurred, was attempted, or was being  
4           attempted.