

STATE OF ARIZONA  
★  
EXECUTIVE ORDER

**Executive Order 2019-03**

**Relating to Enhanced Protections for Individuals with Disabilities**

**WHEREAS**, all Arizonans deserve to be safe wherever they reside;

**WHEREAS**, vulnerable populations including individuals with disabilities are at increased risk of abuse and exploitation;

**WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Justice Statistics National Crime Victimization Survey found that individuals with disabilities are three times more likely to be victims of violent crime;

**WHEREAS**, individuals with intellectual disabilities are seven times more likely to be sexually assaulted;

**WHEREAS**, these statistics underscore the need for heightened protections for individuals with disabilities living in group homes, intermediate care facilities, and other residential settings.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Douglas A. Ducey, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Arizona hereby order as follows:

- 1.) The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), and the Department of Economic Security (DES), in conjunction with disability advocates, shall review current protocols and jointly develop training on preventing abuse and neglect, recognizing the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect, and reporting abuse and neglect for both providers for people with disabilities and for parents and guardians.
- 2.) AHCCCS, DHS, and DES shall ensure that all state contracts related to the care of individuals with disabilities include a requirement that all staff, contractors, and vendors who have direct interaction with members with disabilities shall annually undergo training in preventing, recognizing, and reporting abuse and neglect.
- 3.) AHCCCS, DHS, and DES shall ensure that all state contracts for residential, group homes and day programs for individuals with disabilities include a requirement for the prominent posting of signage which includes department approved language on how to report abuse and neglect.

- 4.) AHCCCS, DHS, and DES shall ensure that all state contracts related to the care of individuals with disabilities include a requirement that a check of the Adult Protective Services Registry before someone is hired.
- 5.) AHCCCS, DHS, and DES shall convene a working group that includes individuals with disabilities, disability advocacy organizations, providers, and family members. This workgroup shall consider additional steps that can be taken to protect and improve care for individuals with disabilities and shall make recommendations and submit a report to the Governor's office by November 1, 2019.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.



*Douglas R. Ducey*

**GOVERNOR**

**DONE** at the Capitol in Phoenix on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year Two Thousand and Nineteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Forty-Third.

**ATTEST:**

*[Signature]*

**Secretary of State**