

# An Act

ENROLLED SENATE

BILL NO. 239

By: Yen, Pittman, and Sharp of  
the Senate

and

Cox of the House

An Act relating to students; creating the Chase Morris Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act; defining term; directing development and posting of certain information and materials; permitting the use of certain existing materials; requiring certain acknowledgement; authorizing certain informational meetings; requiring removal of certain students in specified situations; requiring certain evaluation and clearance; permitting certain consultation; requiring certain persons to complete specified training course; encouraging certain compliance; providing certain interpretation; directing promulgation of rules; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

SUBJECT: Creating the Chase Morris Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 24-156 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Chase Morris Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act".

B. As used in the Chase Morris Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act, "athletic activity" means any sport sanctioned and offered in grades seven through twelve by a school district.

C. The State Department of Health and the State Department of Education shall jointly develop and post on their publicly accessible websites guidelines and other relevant materials to inform and educate students participating in or desiring to participate in an athletic activity, their parents and their coaches about the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest, including the risks associated with continuing to play or practice after experiencing one or more symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest, including unexplained fainting, difficulty breathing, chest pains, dizziness and abnormal racing heart rate. In developing the guidelines and materials, the State Department of Health and the State Department of Education may utilize existing materials developed by other entities or organizations.

D. A student participating in or desiring to participate in an athletic activity and the student's parent or guardian shall, each school year and prior to participation by the student in an athletic activity, sign and return to the student's school an acknowledgement of receipt and review of a sudden cardiac arrest symptoms and warning signs information sheet jointly developed by the State Department of Health and the State Department of Education.

E. A school may hold an informational meeting prior to the start of each athletic season for all ages of competitors regarding the symptoms and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest. In addition to students, parents, coaches and other school officials, informational meetings may include physicians, pediatric cardiologists and athletic trainers.

F. A student who collapses or faints without a concurrent head injury while participating in an athletic activity shall be removed by the coach from participation at that time.

G. A student removed or prevented from participating in an athletic activity pursuant to subsection F of this section shall not

return to participation until the student is evaluated and cleared for return to participation in writing by a health care provider as defined in Section 3090.2 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

H. Once each year, a coach of an athletic activity shall complete the sudden cardiac arrest training course offered by a provider approved by the State Department of Health. A coach of an athletic activity shall not coach the athletic activity until the coach completes the training course required under this subsection.

I. The sponsors of youth athletic activities not associated with a school are encouraged to follow the guidance stated in the Chase Morris Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act.

J. Nothing in the Chase Morris Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act shall be construed to create, establish, expand, reduce, contract or eliminate any civil liability on the part of any school or school employee.

K. The State Board of Health and the State Board of Education shall promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this act.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2015.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the Senate the 29th day of April, 2015.

  
Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 7th day of April, 2015.

  
Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this 30<sup>th</sup>  
day of April, 20 15, at 2:25 o'clock P M.

By: Audrey Rockwell

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this 6<sup>th</sup>  
day of May, 20 15, at 9:44 o'clock A M.

  
Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this 6<sup>th</sup>  
day of May, 20 15, at 5:23 o'clock P. M.

By: Ch. Benge

## Senate Bill 239 – Chase Morris Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act

Effective July 1, 2015, the Chase Morris Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act requires:

- That the State Department of Health and the State Department of Education jointly publish on their websites information to inform students, parents and coaches about the warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest.
- That each year, prior to participation in an athletic activity the student's parent or guardian sign and return an acknowledgement of receipt and review of the signs of sudden cardiac arrest. *"Athletic activity" is defined as any sport sanctioned and offered by a local school district in grades seven through twelve.*
- Any student who collapses or faints without a concurrent head injury while participating in an athletic activity shall be removed from participation. Any student who is removed shall not return until the student is cleared in writing by a health care provider, defined as a person who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by the laws of this state to practice a health care or healing arts profession or who administers health care in the ordinary course of business.
- Each year coaches are required to complete a sudden cardiac arrest training course offered by a provider approved by the State Department of Health, and may not coach until completed.

In addition to the requirements the bill allows a school to hold an informational meeting regarding the signs of sudden cardiac arrest.

*This bill does not create or eliminate any potential civil liability by the school or school employee.*

To access the:

- Athlete/Parent/Guardian Sudden Cardiac Arrest Symptoms and Warning Signs Information Sheet and Acknowledgement of Receipt and Review Form, [click here](#)
- Approved providers of the Sudden Cardiac Arrest training courses for coaches, [click here](#)
- Senate Bill 239, [click here](#)

## **Athlete/Parent/Guardian Sudden Cardiac Arrest Symptoms and Warning Signs Information Sheet and Acknowledgement of Receipt and Review Form**

### **What is sudden cardiac arrest?**

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is when the heart stops beating, suddenly and unexpectedly. When this happens, blood stops flowing to the brain and other vital organs. SCA doesn't just happen to adults; it takes the lives of students, too. However, the causes of sudden cardiac arrest in students and adults can be different. A student's SCA will likely result from an inherited condition, while an adult's SCA may be caused by either inherited or lifestyle issues.

SCA is NOT a heart attack. A heart attack may cause SCA, but they are not the same. A heart attack is caused by a blockage that stops the flow of blood to the heart. SCA is a malfunction in the heart's electrical system, causing the heart to suddenly stop beating.

### **How common is sudden cardiac arrest in the United States?**

While studies have shown sudden cardiac death among young athletes is very uncommon, SCA is the #1 cause of death for student athletes.

### **Are there warning signs?**

Although SCA happens unexpectedly, some people may have signs or symptoms, such as:

- fainting or seizures during exercise;
- unexplained shortness of breath;
- a racing heart;
- dizziness;
- chest pains; or
- extreme fatigue.

These symptoms can be unclear in athletes, since people often confuse these warning signs with physical exhaustion. SCA can be prevented if the underlying causes can be diagnosed and treated.

### **What are the risks of practicing or playing after experiencing these symptoms?**

There are risks associated with continuing to practice or play after experiencing these symptoms. When the heart stops, so does the blood that flows to the brain and other vital organs. Death or permanent brain damage can occur in just a few minutes. Most people who experience SCA die from it.

## **Can you screen for cardiac abnormalities?**

The annual sports preparticipation physical examination includes a personal and family health history to screen for symptoms or warning signs of SCA.

An electrocardiogram (ECG) and echocardiogram (ECHO) are noninvasive and painless options. However, these procedures may be expensive and are not currently advised by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Cardiology unless the preparticipation examination reveals an indication for these tests.

## **Senate Bill 239 – The Chase Morris Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act (the Act)**

The Act is intended to address any sport sanctioned and offered in grades 7 through 12 by a school district in order to keep student-athletes safe while practicing or playing. The requirements of the act are:

- All student-athletes and their parents or guardians must read and sign this form. It must be returned to the school before participation in any athletic activity. A new form must be signed and returned each school year.
- Schools may also hold informational meetings. The meetings can occur before each athletic season. Meetings may include student-athletes, parents, coaches and school officials. Schools may also want to include doctors, pediatric cardiologists and athletic trainers.
- In order to coach an athletic activity, coaches are required once each year to complete an approved SCA training course offered by a provider approved by the Oklahoma State Department of Health.

### *Removal from play/return to play*

- Any student who collapses or faints without a concurrent head injury while participating in an athletic activity shall be removed by the coach from participation at that time.
- Any student who is removed or prevented from participating in an athletic activity shall not return to participation until the student is evaluated and cleared for return to participation in writing by a health care provider. Health care provider is defined as a person who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by the laws of this state to practice a health care or healing arts profession or who administers health care in the ordinary course of business (such as a physician, physician assistant, advanced practice nurse, or cardiologist).



Oklahoma State Department of Health  
Creating a State of Health



## **Athlete/Parent/Guardian Sudden Cardiac Arrest Symptoms and Warning Signs**

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(NAME OF SCHOOL)

I have reviewed the Athlete/Parent/Guardian Sudden Cardiac Arrest Symptoms (SCA) and Warning Signs informational material jointly developed by Oklahoma State Department of Health and the Oklahoma State Department of Education and understand the symptoms and warning signs of SCA related to participation in athletic programs.

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Signature of Student-Athlete

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Print Student-Athlete's Name

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Date

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Signature of Parent/Guardian

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Print Parent/Guardian's Name

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Date

*This form is required to be completed annually prior to the athlete's first practice and/or competition and be kept on file for one year beyond the date of signature in the principal's office or the office designated by the principal.*