

HOUSE BILL 2421

By Rich

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 41,
Chapter 21, Part 2, relative to notification of media
access to inmates.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 41, Chapter 21, Part 2, is amended by
adding the following as a new section:

41-21-245

(a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Media Access to
Inmates Victim Notification Act."

(b) Prior to any news media organization, outlet, representative, or
reporter being granted in-person access to any inmate incarcerated in the
custody of the department of correction for the purpose of any interview, still
photography, or video recording, the commissioner of correction, or the
commissioner's designated representative, shall notify or cause to be notified the
district attorney general of the judicial district in which the conviction occurred for
which the inmate is in custody of the media request for in-person access to the
inmate.

(c)

(1) Upon notification by the commissioner, the district attorney
general, through the victim-witness coordinator, shall notify the victim or
victims of the offense for which the inmate is incarcerated, or the victim's
representative, of the media request for in-person access to the inmate.

(2) If notice is required by this section, the district attorney general, through the victim-witness coordinator, shall contact the victim or the victim's representative by telephone, electronic mail, facsimile, or by other means intended to ensure that the victim receives immediate notification. However, it is the duty of the victim or victim's representative to provide the district attorney general's office with contact information necessary to accomplish such immediate notification.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014, the public welfare requiring it.