

Title 26.
Chapter 2AA.
(New)
Reflex
Sympathetic
Dystrophy
Syndrome
§§1-6 -
C.26:2AA-1 to
26:2AA-6
§7 - Note to §§1-6

P.L. 2007, CHAPTER 255, *approved January 7, 2008*
Assembly, No. 4208

1 **AN ACT** establishing a reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome
2 education and research program and supplementing Title 26 of
3 the Revised Statutes.

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

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8 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Reflex
9 Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Education and Research Program
10 Act."

11
12 2. The Legislature finds and declares that:

13 a. Reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome (RSDS), also
14 known as complex regional pain syndrome, is a debilitating and
15 progressively chronic condition characterized by severe burning
16 pain, pathological changes in bone and skin, excessive sweating,
17 tissue swelling and extreme sensitivity to touch;

18 b. More specifically, RSDS is thought to be a nerve disorder
19 that generally occurs at the site of a minor or major trauma injury,
20 but may also occur without an apparent injury to the afflicted
21 person;

22 c. While the causes of RSDS are unknown, the syndrome is
23 thought to be the result of damaged nerves of the sympathetic
24 nervous system;

25 d. The disorder is unique in that it simultaneously affects the
26 nerves, skin, muscles, blood vessels and bones, and if untreated, can
27 result in permanent deformity and chronic pain;

28 e. RSDS is often misdiagnosed because this condition is either
29 unknown or is poorly understood; the prognosis for patients
30 suffering from RSDS is generally much better when the condition is
31 identified and treated as early as possible, ideally within three
32 months of identifying the first symptoms;

33 f. If treatment is delayed, the disorder can quickly spread to
34 the entire limb, and changes in bone and muscle may become
35 irreversible, resulting in limited mobility, atrophy of the muscles

1 and eventual permanent disability of patients; and

2 g. Since a delay in diagnosis or treatment for this syndrome can
3 result in severe physical and physiological problems, and early
4 recognition and prompt treatment of RSDS provides the greatest
5 opportunity for recovery, it is in the best interest of the public to
6 establish a program to educate both individuals and medical
7 professionals regarding this debilitating condition and to promote
8 research to accurately identify, diagnose and treat RSDS.

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10 3. As used in this act:

11 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Health and Senior
12 Services; and

13 "Reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome" or "RSDS" means a
14 debilitating and progressively chronic condition characterized by
15 severe burning pain, pathological changes in bone and skin,
16 excessive sweating, tissue swelling and extreme sensitivity to touch.

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18 4. The commissioner shall establish a reflex sympathetic
19 dystrophy syndrome education and research program in the
20 Department of Health and Senior Services. The purpose of the
21 program is to promote public awareness of the causes of RSDS, the
22 value of early detection and the diagnosis of and possible treatments
23 for the syndrome, and to promote research, through public and
24 private sources, to accurately identify, diagnose and treat RSDS.

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26 5. The Department of Health and Senior Services shall:

27 a. establish a public education program through the
28 department's website, to promote RSDS education, which will
29 enable individuals to make informed decisions about their health,
30 including, but not limited to the following elements:

31 (1) the cause and nature of RSDS;

32 (2) the risk factors that contribute to the manifestation of RSDS;

33 (3) available treatment options, including risks and benefits of
34 those options;

35 (4) environmental safety and injury prevention;

36 (5) rest and use of appropriate body mechanics;

37 (6) the availability of RSDS diagnostic, treatment and outreach
38 services in the community; and

39 (7) any other factors or elements that might mitigate the effects
40 of RSDS;

41 b. notify local health departments, hospitals, clinics and other
42 health care providers about the availability of information
43 concerning RSDS on the department's website;

44 c. within the limits of funds available to the department for this
45 purpose, coordinate, promote and offer professional education
46 programs, through institutions of higher education, for health care
47 providers and health-related community-based organizations, which
48 may include, but are not limited to the following elements:

- 1 (1) research findings;
- 2 (2) the cause and nature of RSDS;
- 3 (3) the risk factors, including, but not limited to, lifestyle,
- 4 heredity and drug interactions;
- 5 (4) the diagnostic procedures and appropriate indications for
- 6 their use;
- 7 (5) medical and surgical treatment options, including
- 8 experimental and established drug therapies and the risks and
- 9 benefits of each option;
- 10 (6) environmental safety and injury prevention; and
- 11 (7) the availability of RSDS diagnosis and treatment and support
- 12 services in the community; and
- 13 d. promote research, through both private and public funding
- 14 sources, to accurately identify, diagnose and treat RSDS.
- 15
- 16 6. The commissioner may accept and expend any grants,
- 17 awards or other funds or appropriations as may be made available
- 18 for the purposes of this act.
- 19
- 20 7. This act shall take effect on the 180th day after enactment.

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23 STATEMENT
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25 This bill establishes a reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome
26 (RSDS) education and research program in the Department of
27 Health and Senior Services. The purpose of the program is to
28 promote public awareness of the causes of RSDS, the value of early
29 detection and the diagnosis of and possible treatments for the
30 syndrome, and to promote research, through public and private
31 sources, to accurately identify, diagnose and treat the syndrome.

32 Under the provisions of the bill, the department would:

- 33 • establish a public education program, through the
- 34 department's website, to promote RSDS education, which
- 35 will enable individuals to make informed decisions about
- 36 their health, including, but not limited to the following
- 37 elements: the cause and nature of RSDS; the risk factors that
- 38 contribute to the manifestation of RSDS; available treatment
- 39 options, including risks and benefits of those options;
- 40 environmental safety and injury prevention; rest and use of
- 41 appropriate body mechanics; the availability of RSDS
- 42 diagnostic, treatment and outreach services in the
- 43 community; and any other factors or elements that might
- 44 mitigate the effects of RSDS.
- 45 • notify local health departments, hospitals, clinics and other
- 46 health care providers about the availability of information
- 47 concerning RSDS on the department's website;
- 48 • within the limits of funds available to the department for this

1 purpose, coordinate, promote and offer professional
2 education programs, through institutions of higher
3 education, for health care providers and health-related
4 community-based organizations, which may include, but are
5 not limited to the following elements: research findings; the
6 cause and nature of RSDS; the risk factors, including, but
7 not limited to, lifestyle, heredity and drug interactions; the
8 diagnostic procedures and appropriate indications for their
9 use; medical and surgical treatment options, including
10 experimental and established drug therapies and the risks
11 and benefits of each option; environmental safety and injury
12 prevention; and the availability of RSDS diagnosis and
13 treatment and support services in the community; and

- 14 • promote research, through both private and public funding
15 sources, to accurately identify, diagnose and treat RSDS.

16 Lastly, the bill provides that the Commissioner of Health and
17 Senior Services may accept and expend any grants, awards or other
18 funds or appropriations as may be made available for the bill's
19 purposes.

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24 Designated the "Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome
25 Education and Research Program Act."