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Pennsylvania

Child Abuse and Neglect

Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect

To better understand this issue and to view it across States, see the *Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect: Summary of State Laws* ([PDF](#) - 633 KB) publication.

Professionals Required to Report

Citation: Cons. Stat. ch. 23, § 6311

[Effective May 29, 2007]

Persons required to report include, but are not limited to:

- Licensed physicians, osteopaths, medical examiners, coroners, funeral directors, dentists, optometrists, chiropractors, podiatrists, interns, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, or hospital personnel engaged in the admission, examination, care, or treatment of persons
- Christian Science practitioners or members of the clergy
- School administrators, school teachers, school nurses, social services workers, daycare center workers, or any other child care or foster care workers
- Mental health professionals
- Peace officers or law enforcement officials

Reporting by Other Persons

Citation: Cons. Stat. ch. 23, § 6312

Any person who has reason to suspect that a child is abused or neglected may report.

Standards for Making a Report

Citation: Cons. Stat. ch. 23, § 6311

A report is required when a person, who in the course of employment, occupation, or practice of a profession, comes into contact with children, has reasonable cause to suspect, on the basis of medical, professional, or other training and experience, that a child is a victim of child abuse.

Privileged Communications

Citation: Cons. Stat. ch. 23, § 6311

[Effective May 29, 2007]

Except with respect to confidential communications made to a member of the clergy that are protected under 42 Pa.C.S. § 5943 (relating to confidential communications to clergymen), and except with respect to confidential communications made to an attorney that are protected by 42 Pa.C.S. §§ 5916 or 5928 (relating to confidential communications to an attorney), the privileged communication between any professional person required to report and the patient or client of that person shall not apply to situations involving child abuse and shall not constitute grounds for failure to report as required by this chapter.

Inclusion of Reporter's Name in Report

Citation: Cons. Stat. ch. 23, § 6313

Mandated reporters must make a written report that includes their name and contact information.

Disclosure of Reporter Identity

Citation: Cons. Stat. ch. 23, § 6340

The release of the identity of the mandated reporter is prohibited unless the secretary finds that the release will not be detrimental to the safety of the reporter.

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Children's Bureau



Child Welfare Information Gateway
Children's Bureau/ACYF
1250 Maryland Avenue, SW
Eighth Floor
Washington, DC 20024
703.385.7565 or 800.394.3366
Email: info@childwelfare.gov