

# Mandated Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse

## *What Clubs Should Know*



### **What is mandated reporting?**

All states and U.S. territories have statutes that require specific persons, typically based on profession, to report suspected child abuse or maltreatment to an appropriate agency like child protective services, law enforcement, or a child abuse reporting hotline.

### **Who is a mandated reporter?**

A mandated reporter is a person who, because of his or her profession, is legally required to report any suspicion of child abuse or neglect to the relevant authorities. Typically, these professions include people who have frequent contact with children. Additionally, almost twenty states require that *any* person who suspects child abuse or neglect must report regardless of profession. To find out more about reporting requirements in your state, please look [here](#).

### **Are Boys & Girls Club employees and volunteers considered mandated reporters?**

In the vast majority of jurisdictions, Boys & Girls Clubs employees are mandated reporters. Many states also have institutional reporting requirements, which typically provide that the person who suspects abuse notify the head of the institution that abuse has been discovered or is suspected and needs to be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Regardless of state mandates, all Boys & Girls Club employees, volunteers, and board members should report any suspicion of child abuse or neglect to local authorities. As an organization that prides ourselves on serving young people, especially those who need us most, it is imperative that we work to protect every child who walks through our doors..

### **What are the responsibilities of mandated reporters?**

The circumstances under which a mandatory reporter must report suspect abuse vary from state to state, but typically a report must be made when a reporter, in his or her official capacity, suspects or has reason to believe that a child has been abused or neglected or is in danger of being abused. Reporters are generally required to report the facts and circumstances that led them to suspect abuse, but they are not required to and should not attempt to investigate the circumstances of the suspected abuse. Reporters are therefore discouraged from asking the child or others involved probing questions or investigating physical signs of abuse; instead, report to the proper authorities that have been trained to investigate.

## What are the penalties for not reporting?

Failure to adhere to mandatory reporting requirements is a crime in most jurisdictions. The penalties vary by state and territory and generally include, but are not limited to significant fines and even incarceration. It's important to note that penalties often apply to the staff person that failed to report and to the Organization as a whole, opening the Organization up to additional liability and exposure to legal action. More information about the laws in your state is available [here](#).

## Additional Resources

[Child Welfare Information Gateway](#) promotes the safety, permanency, and well-being of children, youth, and families. This site offers many resources including state statutes and mandatory reporting laws.

[Prevent Child Abuse America](#)'s mission is to prevent the abuse and neglect of our nation's children. The organization provides parenting tips, statistics and facts about child abuse, and information on public policy focused on preventing child abuse and neglect.

[Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#) houses a variety of resources directly related to the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

**Your local child welfare agency may offer training on recognizing child abuse and understanding the role of the mandated reporter. In addition, several states offer free or low-cost mandated reporter training. See below for a complete list.**

**Alabama:** <https://aldhr.remote-learner.net/course/index.php?categoryid=1>

**Alaska:** <http://training.dhss.alaska.gov/mandatoryreporter/training/multiscreen.html>

**Arizona:**

[http://childhelpinfocenter.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=135&Itemid=164](http://childhelpinfocenter.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=135&Itemid=164)

**Arkansas:** <https://ar.mandatedreporter.org/UserAuth/Login!loginPage.action>

**California:** <http://mandatedreporterca.com/>

**Colorado:** <https://www.coloradocwts.com/mandated-reporter-training>

**Connecticut:** <https://portal.ct.gov/DCF/Mandated-Reporter-Training/Home>

**Delaware:** <https://courts.delaware.gov/childadvocate/professionals/mandatoryreporting.aspx>

**Florida:** <http://www.myflfamilies.com/event/mandatory-reporter-training>

**Georgia:** <https://oca.georgia.gov/mandated-reporting>

**Guam:** <https://www.rainn.org/pdf-files-and-other-documents/Public-Policy/Legal-resources/2009-Mandatory-Report/Guam09C.pdf>

**Hawaii:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2R7jKB96is0>

**Idaho:** <https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Children/AbuseNeglect/tabid/74/Default.aspx> and <https://www.idahochildrenstrustfund.org/index.php/prevention-strategies/sexual-abuse-prevention-online-training>

**Illinois:**

<https://mr.dcfstraining.org/UserAuth/Login!loginPage.action;jsessionid=DBEF7082C3F7975A470395A7AEC1BED3>

**Indiana:** <https://reportchildabuse.dcs.in.gov/>

**Iowa:** *State does not offer any on-line training.*

**Kansas:**

<http://www.dcf.ks.gov/Agency/CWSTF/Documents/Protective%20Services%20and%20Family%20Preservation/MANDATED%20REPORTER%20PRESENTATION.pdf>

**Kentucky:** *State does not offer any on-line training. To find out more information about Kentucky's mandatory reporting law please visit*

[https://www.kasap.org/images/files/GetInfo/Handout\\_Mandatory%20Reporting%200712.pdf](https://www.kasap.org/images/files/GetInfo/Handout_Mandatory%20Reporting%200712.pdf)

**Louisiana:** <http://www.dcf.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=newsroom&tmp=detail&articleID=575>

**Maine:** <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/mandated-reporters.shtml#:~:text=Call%201%2D800%2D452%2D1999&text=Contact%20a%20trainer%20in%20your,cost%20anywhere%20in%20the%20state.>

**Maryland:** <https://www.reportabusemd.com/>

**Massachusetts:** <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dds/mandated-reporter-training.html>

**Michigan:** [https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971\\_7119\\_50648\\_44443---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971_7119_50648_44443---,00.html)

**Minnesota:**

<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/media/flash/Training%20modules%20on%20guidelines%20for%20mandated%20reporting/launch.htm>

**Mississippi:** [https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/\\_static/resources/7529.pdf](https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/resources/7529.pdf)

**Missouri:** <https://protectmokids.com/>

**Montana:** <https://www.childcaretraining.org/mod/page/view.php?id=4007>

**Nebraska:** *State does not offer any on-line training. To find out more information about Nebraska's mandatory reporting law please visit* <https://apps.rainn.org/policy/policy-state-laws-export.cfm?state=Nebraska&group=4>

**Nevada:** *State does not offer any on-line training. To find out more information about Nevada's mandatory reporting law please visit* <https://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/cy/2006/fs0626.pdf>

**New Hampshire:** <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/holu/documents/reporting-child-abuse.pdf>

**New Jersey:** <https://pro.ispringcloud.com/acc/Twfdmc4xMTU4NQ/s/11585-6GFro-5hDi9-5Rh22>

**New Mexico:** <https://swrtc.nmsu.edu/resources/elearning/educators/>

**New York:** <http://www.nysmandatedreporter.org/TrainingCourses.aspx>

**North Carolina:** <https://www.preventchildabusenc.org/services/trainings-and-professional-development/rrcourse>

**North Dakota:** <http://www.pcand.org/NDDHS/mandatedreportertraining/>

**Ohio:** *State does not offer any on-line training. To find out more information about Ohio's mandatory reporting law please visit* <http://familysafetyandhealing.org/how-to-help/as-a-mandated-reporter/>

**Oklahoma:** <https://www.ouhsc.edu/okcantraining/OnlineTraining.aspx>

**Oregon:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VB6d8yRYonY>

**Pennsylvania:**

<http://www.keepkidssafe.pa.gov/resources/training/index.htm>



**Puerto Rico:** <https://www.adfanpr.com/Sircse/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fSircse%2fDefault.aspx>  
**Rhode Island:** *State does not offer any on-line training. To find out more information about Rhode Island's mandatory reporting law please visit*  
[http://www.dcyf.ri.gov/policyregs/reporting\\_child\\_abuse\\_and\\_or\\_neglect.htm](http://www.dcyf.ri.gov/policyregs/reporting_child_abuse_and_or_neglect.htm)  
**South Carolina:** <https://dss.sc.gov/prevention/mandated-reporters/>  
**South Dakota:** <https://apps.sd.gov/SS60ReporterVideoTraining/Introduction.aspx>  
**Tennessee:** <https://www.tn.gov/dcs/program-areas/child-safety/reporting/faqs.html>  
**Texas:** <https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/training/reporting/>  
**Utah:** *State does not offer any on-line training. To find out more information about Utah's mandatory reporting law please visit* <https://dcfs.utah.gov/services/child-protective-services/>  
**Vermont:** <http://dcf.vermont.gov/dcf-blog/online-training-mandated-reporters-now-available>  
**Virginia:** <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/abuse/mr.cgi>  
**Washington:** <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/home-and-community-services/mandatory-reporter-training>  
**Washington D.C.:** <https://dc.mandatedreporter.org/pages/Welcome.action>  
**West Virginia:** <http://www.courtswv.gov/public-resources/CAN/2017GAL-training/making-referrals.pdf>  
**Wisconsin:** <https://media.wcwpds.wisc.edu/mandatedreporter/>  
**Wyoming:** <http://dfsweb.wyo.gov/social-services/mandatory-reporting>