

Maryland Mandatory Reporting Requirements Regarding Children	
<i>Who Must Report?</i>	Any person.
<i>Standard of Knowledge</i>	Reason to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect.
<i>Definition of Applicable Victim</i>	<p>A child is an individual under the age of 18 who has been subjected to abuse or neglect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Abuse” defined as (i) the physical or mental injury of a child by any parent or other person who has permanent or temporary care or custody or responsibility for supervision of a child, or by any household or family member, under circumstances that indicate that the child’s health or welfare is harmed or at substantial risk of being harmed; or (ii) sexual abuse of a child, whether physical injuries are substantial or not. • “Neglect” defined as the leaving of a child unattended or other failure to give proper care and attention to a child by any parent or other person who has permanent or temporary care or custody or responsibility for supervision of the child under the circumstances that indicate (i) that the child’s health or welfare is harmed or placed at substantial risk of harm; or (ii) mental injury to the child or a substantial risk of mental injury.
<i>Reports Made To</i>	<p>Oral and written reports must be made as soon as possible to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local department of social services (i.e., the department having jurisdiction over the county in which the abused child lives) or the appropriate law enforcement agency, if the reporter believes the child was subject to abuse. • Local department of social services, if the reporter believes that the child was subject to neglect. <p>Written reports must be made to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local department of social services not later than 48 hours after the contact, examination, attention, or treatment that caused the individual to believe that the child had been subjected to abuse or neglect. • Provide a copy to the local State’s Attorney if the individual has reason to believe that the child has been subjected to abuse.
<i>Contents of Report</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name, age, and home address of the child; • The name and home address of the child’s parent or other person who is responsible for the child’s care; • The whereabouts of the child; • The nature and extent of the abuse or neglect of the child,

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	<p>including any evidence or information available to the reporter concerning possible previous instances of abuse or neglect; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other information that would help to determine the cause of the suspected abuse or neglect and the identity of any individual responsible for the abuse or neglect.
<i>Timing/Other Procedures</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health practitioners, police officers, educators, and human service workers (“educator or human service worker” means “any professional employee of any correctional, public, parochial or private educational, health, juvenile service, social or social service agency, institution, or licensed facility,” and specifically includes any teacher, counselor, social worker, caseworker, or probation or parole officer) acting in a professional capacity, must follow the oral and written report procedures identified above. • For all other persons, there are no such requirements specified, and the reports may be oral or in writing to the agencies identified above.
<i>Other</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals who are not health practitioners, police officers, educators, and human service workers need not report suspected abuse or neglect if doing so would violate the attorney-client privilege or if the report would require disclosure of “matter communicated in confidence by a client to the client’s attorney or other information relating to the representation of the client.”
<i>Source/Applicable Statute(s)</i>	Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law §§ 5-701, 5-704, 5-705 (2009).

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