

Texas Mandatory Reporting Requirements Regarding Children	
<i>Who Must Report?</i>	Any person.
<i>Standard of Knowledge</i>	Cause to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been adversely affected by abuse or neglect.
<i>Definition of Applicable Victim</i>	"Child" means a person under 18 years of age who is not and has not been married or who has not had the disabilities of minority removed for general purposes.
<i>Reports Made To</i>	Any local or state law enforcement agency, the Department of Family and Protective Services at 1-800-252-5400 or through https://www.txabusehotline.org , the state agency that operates, licenses, certifies or registers the facility in which the alleged abuse or neglect occurred, or the agency designated by the court to be responsible for the protection of children.
<i>Contents of Report</i>	The report should reflect the reporter's belief that a child has been or may be abused or neglected or has died of abuse or neglect. To the extent known, it should also include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name and address of the child; • The name and address of the person responsible for the care, custody or welfare of the child; and • Any other pertinent information concerning the alleged or suspected abuse or neglect.
<i>Timing/Other Procedures</i>	Reports must be made immediately. Professionals, or those whose official duties require a license or certification and who in the normal course of official duties have direct contact with children, must report the suspected abuse no later than 48 hours after first suspecting the abuse.
<i>Other</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowingly failing to report is a Class A misdemeanor if the person has cause to believe that an elderly or disabled person has been abused, neglected or exploited or is in the state of abuse, neglect or exploitation. A Class A misdemeanor is punishable by fine not to exceed \$ 4,000; confinement in jail for a term not to exceed one year; or both such fine and confinement. • This provision applies without exception to individuals who may have privileged communications, including an attorney, a member of the clergy, a medical practitioner, a social worker, a mental health professional, and an employee of a clinic or health care facility that provides reproductive services.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If an individual, who is licensed or certified by the state or who is an employee of a facility licensed, certified, or operated by the state and who, in the normal course of official duties or duties for which a license or certification is required, has direct contact with children, including teachers, nurses, doctors, day-care employees, employees of a clinic or health care facility that provides reproductive services, juvenile probation officers, and juvenile detention or correctional officers has cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected or may be abused or neglected and such person has cause to believe that the child has been abused, such person shall make a report not later than the 48th hour after the hour such person first suspects that the child has been or may be abused or neglected.
<i>Source/Applicable Statute(s)</i>	Tex. Fam. Code §§ 101.003, 261.001, 261.101, 261.103, 261.104, 261.109 (2009); Tex. Penal Code §§ 12.22; 261.109 (2009).

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