

Alabama Mandatory Reporting Requirements Regarding Children

<i>Who Must Report?</i>	Hospitals; Clinics; Sanitariums; Doctors; Physicians; Surgeons; Medical Examiners; Coroners; Dentists; Osteopaths; Optometrists; Chiropractors; Podiatrists; Nurses; School teachers and officials; Peace officers; Law enforcement officials; Pharmacists; Social workers; Day care workers or employees; Mental health professionals; Members of the clergy (as defined in Rule 505 of the Alabama Rules of Evidence); and Any other person called upon to render aid or medical assistance to any child
<i>Standard of Knowledge</i>	“[T]he child is known or suspected to be a victim of child abuse or neglect.”
<i>Definition of Applicable Victim</i>	Child means a person under the age of 18.
<i>Reports Made To</i>	Reports should be made to a “duly constituted authority,” which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the chief of police of a municipality or municipality and county or the sheriff, if the observation of child abuse or neglect is made in an unincorporated territory;</li> <li>• the Department of Human Resources; or</li> <li>• any person, organization, corporation, group, or agency authorized and designated by the Department of Human Resources to receive reports of child abuse and neglect.</li> </ul> <p>A duly constituted authority shall not include an agency involved in the acts or omissions of the reported child abuse or neglect.</p>
<i>Contents of Report</i>	The report should include, if known: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The name of the child, his whereabouts, the names and addresses of the</li> </ul>

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	<p>parents, guardian or caretaker;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the character and extent of the child’s injuries;</li> <li>• in the written report, any evidence of previous injuries to the child and any other pertinent information that might establish the cause of the injury and the identity of the person or persons responsible for the injury.</li> </ul>
<i>Timing/Other Procedures</i>	An oral report, either by telephone or direct communication, must be made immediately, followed by a written report.
<i>Other</i>	Any person who knowingly fails to make the required report shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a sentence of not more than six months’ imprisonment or a fine of not more than \$500.
<i>Source/Applicable Statute(s)</i>	Child Abuse Reporting Act, Ala. Code §§ 26-14-1 <i>et seq.</i> ; <i>see also</i> 2001-142 Op. Att’y Gen. (Ala. 2001).