

Alaska Mandatory Reporting Requirements Regarding Children

<i>Who Must Report?</i>	<p>Practitioners of the healing arts (including chiropractors, mental health counselors, social workers, dental hygienists, dentists, health aides, nurses, nurse practitioners, certified nurse aides, occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, optometrists, osteopaths, naturopaths, physical therapists, physical therapy assistants, physicians, physician’s assistants, psychiatrists, psychologists, psychological associates, audiologists and speech-language pathologists, hearing aid dealers, marital and family therapists, religious healing practitioners, acupuncturists, and surgeons);  School teachers and school administrative staff members of public and private schools;  Peace officers and officers of the Department of Corrections;  Administrative officers of institutions;  Child care providers;  Paid employees of domestic violence and sexual assault programs, and crisis intervention and prevention programs as defined in Alaska Stat. § 18.66.990;  Paid employees of an organization that provides counseling or treatment to individuals seeking to control their use of drugs or alcohol; and  Members of a child fatality review team established under Alaska Stat. § 12.65.015(e) or § 12.65.120 or a multidisciplinary child protection team created under Alaska Stat. § 47.14.300.</p>
<i>Standard of Knowledge</i>	<p>“[R]easonable cause to suspect that a child has suffered harm as a result of child abuse or neglect.”</p>
<i>Definition of Applicable Victim</i>	<p>Child means a person under the age of 18.</p>
<i>Reports Made To</i>	<p>Reports should be made to the nearest office of the Department of Health and Social Services. If the person making the report cannot reasonably contact the Department and immediate action is necessary for the well-being of the child, the person shall make the report to a peace officer, who will take appropriate action and notify the Department.</p>
<i>Contents of Report</i>	<p>[Not provided]</p>
<i>Timing/Other Procedures</i>	<p>The report should be made immediately (within 24 hours).</p>
<i>Other</i>	<p>A person required to report child abuse or neglect under who makes the report to his or her job supervisor or to another individual working for the entity that employs the person is not relieved of the obligation to make the report to the Department.</p> <p>The law does not require the reporting of mental injury to a child as a result of exposure to domestic violence so long as the person required to report has reasonable cause to believe that the child is in safe and appropriate care and not presently in danger of mental injury as a result of exposure to domestic violence.</p>

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	A person who fails to report abuse and who knew or should have known that the circumstances gave rise to the need for a report is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.
<i>Source/Applicable Statute(s)</i>	Alaska Stat. §§ 47.17.020, .068, .290.