

Iowa Mandatory Reporting Requirements Regarding Children

*Who Must Report?*

Every health practitioner who, examines, attends, or treats a child and who reasonably believes the child has been abused, including a health practitioner who receives information confirming that a child is infected with a sexually transmitted disease.

Any of the following persons who, in the scope of professional practice or their employment, examines, attends, counsels, or treats a child and reasonably believes a child has suffered abuse:

- A social worker.
- An employee or operator of a public or private health care facility.
- A certified psychologist.
- A licensed school employee, certified para-educator, holder of a coaching authorization issued by the state, or an instructor employed by a community college.
- An employee or operator of a licensed child care center, registered child development home, Head Start program, Family Development and Self-Sufficiency Grant Program regulated by the state, or Healthy Opportunities for Parents to Experience Successful Healthy Families Iowa Program.
- An employee or operator of a substance abuse program or facility licensed by the state.
- An employee of a Department of Human Services institution regulated by the state.
- An employee or operator of a juvenile detention or juvenile shelter care facility approved by the state.
- An employee or operator of a foster care facility licensed or approved by the state.
- An employee or operator of a mental health center.
- A peace officer.
- A counselor or mental health professional. A “mental health professional” is a person who:
  - holds at least a master's degree in a mental health field, including, but not limited to, psychology, counseling, nursing, or social work; or is licensed by the state to practice medicine;
  - holds a license to practice in the appropriate profession; and
  - has at least two years of postdegree experience, supervised by a mental health professional, in assessing mental health problems and needs of individuals used

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	<p style="text-align: center;">in providing appropriate mental health services for those individuals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An employee or operator of a provider of children’s services funded under a federally-approved waiver.</li> </ul>
<i>Standard of Knowledge</i>	“Reasonably believes a child has suffered abuse.”
<i>Definition of Applicable Victim</i>	<p>“Child” means any person under the age of eighteen years. “Child” does not include unborn fetuses.</p> <p>All children, including those under spiritual treatment, are subject to the same child abuse reporting, regardless of the religious exemption provisions.</p>
<i>Reports Made To</i>	<p>Each report shall be made both orally and in writing. The oral report shall be made by telephone or otherwise to the Department of Human Services (1-800-362-2178). If the person making the report has reason to believe that immediate protection for the child is advisable, that person shall also make an oral report to an appropriate law enforcement agency.</p> <p>The written report shall be made to the Department of Human Services within forty-eight hours after the oral report.</p>
<i>Contents of Report</i>	<p>The oral and written reports shall contain as much of the following information as possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The name and home address of the child, the child's parents, or other people believed to be responsible for the child's care;</li> <li>• The child's present whereabouts if not the home address;</li> <li>• The child's age;</li> <li>• The nature and extent of the child's injuries, including any evidence of previous injuries;</li> <li>• The name, age and condition of other children in the same home;</li> <li>• Any other information which the person making the report believes might be helpful in establishing the cause of the injury to the child, the identity of the person or persons responsible for the injury, or in providing assistance to the child; and</li> <li>• The name and address of the person making the report.</li> </ul>
<i>Timing/Other Procedures</i>	Reports shall be made within 24 hours.
<i>Other</i>	Mandatory reporters whose employment or self-employment involves the examination, attending, counseling, or treatment of children on a regular basis shall complete two hours of training relating to the identification and reporting of child abuse. The training must be completed within six months of initial employment or self-employment. The person shall complete at least two hours of additional child abuse identification and reporting training every

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	<p>five years.</p> <p>NOTE: This does NOT apply to physicians whose professional practice does not regularly involve providing primary health care to children.</p>
<i>Source/Applicable Statute(s)</i>	IOWA CODE §§ 232.68, 232.69, 232.70 (2007); Iowa Attorney General Opinion No. 80-8-1.