

Pennsylvania Mandatory Reporting Requirements Regarding Children	
<i>Who Must Report?</i>	“Persons who, in the course of their employment, occupation, or practice of their profession, come into contact with children,” including (but not limited to) licensed physicians; osteopaths; medical examiners; coroners; funeral directors; dentists; optometrists; chiropractors; podiatrists; interns; registered nurses; licensed practical nurses; hospital personnel engaged in the admission, examination, care, or treatment of persons; Christian Science practitioners; members of the clergy; school administrators; school teachers; school nurses; social services workers; day-care center workers or any other child-care or foster-care workers; mental health professionals; peace officers; and law enforcement officials
<i>Standard of Knowledge</i>	Reasonable cause to suspect, on the basis of the reporter’s medical, professional or other training and experience, that a child coming before him or her in his or her professional or official capacity is an abused child
<i>Definition of Applicable Victim</i>	Abused child (see 23 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 6303 for specific definition of the term “child abuse”)
<i>Reports Made To</i>	Oral reports must be made to the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare at 1-800-932-0313 (http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/Child/ChildAbuseNeglect/), and written reports must be made to the appropriate county agency in a manner and on forms the Department prescribes by regulation
<i>Contents of Report</i>	The following, if available: (1) the names and addresses of the child and the parents or other person responsible for the care of the child (if known), where the suspected abuse occurred, the age and sex of the subjects of the report, the nature and extent of the suspected child abuse (including any evidence of prior abuse to the child or siblings of the child), the name and relationship of the person or persons responsible for causing the suspected abuse (if known) and any evidence of prior abuse by that person or persons, family composition, the source of the report, the person making the report and where that person can be reached, the actions taken by the reporting source (including the taking of photographs and X-rays, removal or keeping of the child, or notifying the medical examiner or coroner), and any other information which the department may require by regulation
<i>Timing/Other Procedures</i>	Must be made immediately by telephone, and in writing within 48 hours of the oral report

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<i>Other</i>	<p>(1) Except with respect to confidential communications made to an ordained member of the clergy which are protected, the privileged communication between any professional person required to report and the patient or client of that person shall not apply to situations involving child abuse and shall not constitute grounds for failure to report</p> <p>(2) Sexual assault counselors have a duty to report allegations of child abuse to police (<u>Commonwealth v. Askew</u>, 666 A.2d 1062 (Pa. Super. Ct. 1995))</p> <p>(3) In addition to the above report, a “person or official required to report cases of suspected child abuse, including employees of a county agency, who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child died as a result of child abuse shall report that suspicion to the appropriate coroner”</p> <p>(4) Note that there are no mandatory reporting requirements for elders/disabled</p>
<i>Source/Applicable Statute(s)</i>	23 Pa. Cons. Stat. §§ 6311, 6313, 6317 (2007)