

Pennsylvania Mandatory Reporting Requirements Regarding Children	
<i>Who Must Report?</i>	Persons who, <i>in the course of their employment, occupation, or practice of their profession</i> , come into contact with children, including (but not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 under the care, supervision, guidance or training of that person or of an agency, institution, organization or other entity with which that person is affiliated is a victim of child abuse, including child abuse by an individual who is not a perpetrator (as defined in 23 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 6303).
<i>Definition of Applicable Victim</i>	A child is a person under the age of 18 (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 and may be made to the appropriate

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	county agency. Written reports must be made to the appropriate county agency in a manner and on forms the Department prescribes by regulation (see attached forms).
<i>Contents of Report</i>	<p>Written report must include the following, if available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>	Reports must be made immediately by telephone, followed by a written report within 48 hours of the oral report.
<i>Other</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Except with respect to protected confidential communications made to an ordained member of the clergy or an attorney, 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. • Sexual assault counselors have a duty to report allegations of child abuse to police (<u>Commonwealth v. Askew</u>, 666 A.2d 1062, 1065 (Pa. Super. Ct. 1995)). • 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." • Whenever a person is required to report abuse in their capacity as a member of the staff of a medical or other public or private

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	<p>institution, school, facility or agency, that person shall immediately notify the person in charge of the institution, school, facility or agency or the designated agent of the person in charge. Upon notification, the person in charge or the designated agent, if any, shall assume the responsibility and have the legal obligation to report or cause a report to be made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A person or official required to report a case of suspected child abuse or to make a referral to the appropriate authorities who willfully fails to do so commits a misdemeanor of the third degree for the first violation and a misdemeanor of the second degree for a second or subsequent violation.
<i>Source/Applicable Statute(s)</i>	Child Protective Services Law, 23 Pa. C.S.A. §§ 6303, 6311, 6313, 6317, 6319 (2009).

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