

Rhode Island Mandatory Reporting Requirements Regarding Children	
<i>Who Must Report?</i>	Any person.
<i>Standard of Knowledge</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child has been abused or neglected or has been a victim of sexual abuse by another child. If a physician or certified registered nurse practitioner determines that a child under the age of twelve (12) has a sexually transmitted disease, he or she must report.
<i>Definition of Applicable Victim</i>	A person under the age of 18 who has been abused or neglected. An abused or neglected child includes a child whose physical or mental welfare is harmed or threatened with harm when a parent or other person responsible for child's welfare has inflicted physical or mental injury, or creates a substantial risk thereof; sexually abuses or exploits the child; or fails to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter or medical care or a minimum degree of care or proper supervision or guardianship because of the parent or guardian's unwillingness or inability to do so (see R.I. Gen. Laws § 40-11-2 for a detailed definition of the term "abused and/or neglected child").
<i>Reports Made To</i>	The Department of Children, Youth, and Families Child Abuse Hotline (1-800-742-4453) (http://www.dcyf.state.ri.us/) or its agent.
<i>Contents of Report</i>	If a physician or registered nurse practitioner has cause to suspect that a child coming to him or her for examination, care or treatment is an abused or neglected child or when he or she determines that a child under the age of 12 has a sexually transmitted disease, an immediate oral report shall be made by telephone or otherwise, to both the department and law enforcement agency, and shall be followed by a report, in writing, to the department and law enforcement agency explaining the extent and nature of the abuse or neglect the child is alleged to have suffered. Contents of other reports are not specified.
<i>Timing/Other Procedures</i>	Report must be made within 24 hours. (Note that certain reports must be made "immediately".)
<i>Other</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting includes immediate notification of instances "where parents of an infant have requested deprivation of nutrition that is necessary to sustain life and/or who have requested deprivation of medical or surgical intervention that is necessary to remedy or ameliorate a life threatening

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	<p>medical condition, if the nutrition or medical or surgical intervention is generally provided to similar nutritional, medical, or surgical conditioned infants, whether disabled or not.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reportable abuse may include situations in which a child is denied medical services for religious reasons (R.I. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 92-03-04, March 11, 1992). • Reportable abuse does not include situations where a child’s parents and physician discontinue the use of life-support systems or nonpalliative treatment for a child who is terminally ill where, in the opinion of the child’s physician exercising competent medical judgment, the child has no reasonable chance of recovery from the terminal illness despite every appropriate medical treatment to correct the condition. • In addition to the above report, “[a]ny person required to report...who has reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child has died as a result of child abuse or neglect shall immediately transfer that information to the department or its agent.” • Any person, official, physician or institution required to report or perform any other act who knowingly fails to do so or knowingly prevents any person acting reasonably from doing so shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$ 500) or imprisonment for not more than one year or both. • Any person, official, physician, or institution who knowingly fails to perform any act required by this chapter or who knowingly prevents another person from performing a required act shall be civilly liable for the damages proximately caused by that failure.
<i>Source/Applicable Statute(s)</i>	R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 40-11-2, 40-11-3, 40-11-3.1, 40-11-6, 40-11-6.1 (2009).

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