## Wisconsin Mandatory Reporting Requirements Regarding Children

### Who Must Report?
Any of the following persons who has a reasonable cause to suspect that a child *seen by the person in the course of professional duties* has been abused:

- Physician, coroner, medical examiner, nurse, dentist, chiropractor, optometrist, acupuncturist, physical therapist, physical therapist assistant, occupational therapist, dietitian, speech-language pathologist, audiologist, emergency medical technician or other medical or mental health professional;
- Social worker, marriage and family therapist, professional counselor, alcohol or other drug abuse counselor;
- Public assistance worker, including a financial and employment planner;
- School teacher, school administrator, school counselor;
- Child-care worker or day care provider/center;
- Member of the treatment staff employed by or working under contract with a county department;
- First responder, police or law enforcement officer;
- A member of the clergy must report if the member of the clergy has reasonable cause to suspect that a child seen by the member of the clergy in the course of his or her professional duties is being abused or threatened with abuse or has reason to believe that another member of the clergy is abusing a child or threatening a child of abuse,
- Court appointed special advocate; and
- Mediator.

### Standard of Knowledge
Reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected or has been threatened with abuse or neglect that is likely to occur.

### Definition of Applicable Victim
A child is a person under the age of 18.

### Reports Made To
Department of Child Protective Services in the county where the child resides or the Child Abuse and Neglect hotline (1-800-352-6513). The contact information for the Child Protective Services office in each county is attached to this summary and available at [http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/Children/CPS/cpswimap.htm?ref=hp](http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/Children/CPS/cpswimap.htm?ref=hp).

### Contents of Report
Facts and circumstance contributing to a suspicion of child abuse or to a belief that abuse or neglect will occur.

### Timing/Other Procedures
Reports must be made immediately by telephone or in person.
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<th>Other</th>
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<td>The local department of Child Protective Services may require that a subsequent report of certain cases be made in writing as well.</td>
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<td>• Failure to report can result in a fine of up to $1,000 or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both.</td>
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<td>• Reasonable cause to suspect if the same as the belief an ordinary person would reach given the same information. State v. Hurd, 400 N.W.2d 42, 45 (Wis. 1986).</td>
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<td>• A member of the clergy is not required to report information received solely through confidential communications made to him or her privately or in a confessional setting if he or she is authorized to hear or is accustomed to hearing such communications and, under the disciplines, tenets, or traditions of his or her religion, has a duty or is expected to keep those communications secret.</td>
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<td>• Any person not otherwise specified above, including an attorney, who has reason to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected or who has reason to believe that a child has been threatened with abuse or neglect and that abuse or neglect of the child will occur may make a report.</td>
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**Source/Applicable Statute(s)**