

Illinois Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act

- Illinois law related to the reporting of suspected child abuse or neglect.
- Outlines a variety of persons who are considered “mandatory reporters” under the Act.
- As of June 27, 2012, ALL employees of higher education institutions became mandatory reporters, and are required to sign a form acknowledging that they understand the reporting requirements.

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- As a mandatory reporter, you are required to report cases of suspected child abuse or neglect to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) toll-free 24-hour Child Abuse Hotline, at 1-800-25-ABUSE (22873).
- DCFS will then investigate the matter.

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- “Abused Child” is defined as one whose parent or immediate family member, or any other person responsible for the child’s welfare, or any individual residing in the same home as the child, or a paramour of the child’s parent:
 - Inflicts, causes to be inflicted, or allows to be inflicted upon such child physical injury, by other than accidental means which causes death, disfigurement, impairment of physical or emotional health, or loss or impairment of any bodily function;

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- Creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such child by other than accidental means which would be likely to cause death, disfigurement, impairment of physical or emotional health, or loss or impairment of any bodily function;
- Commits or allows to be committed any sex offense against a child (as defined in the Criminal Code, or in the Wrongs to Children Act, and extending those definitions to include children under 18 years of age);
- Commits or allows to be committed an act or acts of torture upon a child;

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(Abused Child Definition Continued)

- Inflicts excessive corporal punishment;
- Commits or allows to be committed the offense of female genital mutilation (as defined in the Criminal Code), against the child; or
- Causes to be sold, transferred, distributed, or given to a child under 18 years of age, a controlled substance, as defined by the Illinois Controlled Substance Act, except those substances that are appropriately prescribe;
- Commits or allows to be committed the offense of involuntary servitude, involuntary sexual servitude of a minor, or trafficking in persons for forced labor.

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“Neglected Child” is defined as any child who is not receiving the proper or necessary nourishment or medically indicated treatment or other care necessary for child’s wellbeing, including adequate food, clothing and shelter, or who is abandoned or a newborn infant whose blood, urine or meconium contains any amount of a controlled substance.

- Exception: Medical treatment to mother results in controlled substance content for newborn.

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- Other Persons Required to Report:
 - Medical Personnel
 - School and Child Care Personnel
 - Law Enforcement Personnel
 - Funeral Home Employees
 - Field Personnel of Various State Agencies
 - Others

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- Any person who knowingly or willingly fails to report is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor for the first violation, and a Class 4 felony for a second or subsequent violation.
- If in doubt about whether someone's actions constitute neglect or abuse, make a good faith report.

Reporting Abuse and Neglect by Mandated Reporter

- Call the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) hotline at 1-800-25 ABUSE or 1-800-252-2873.
- You must send written confirmation to the appropriate DCFS field office within 48 hours of the initial report, on a form provided by the Department.

Reporting Abuse and Neglect by Mandated Reporter

The filing of a false report is a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by a term of imprisonment for up to one year, or by a fine not to exceed \$1000, or by both. A second violation is a Class 4 felony.

Illinois Department of Children & Family Services

- For additional information about the Act, its requirements, or the Department of Children & Family Services, you may use the following link:

<http://www.state.il.us/dcfs/child/index.shtml>