

Louisiana Mandatory Reporting Requirements Regarding Children

<p><i>Who Must Report?</i></p>	<p><u>Mandatory Reporters</u> Any of the following individuals performing their occupational duties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health practitioner; • Mental health/social service practitioner; • Member of the clergy, including any priest, rabbi, duly ordained clerical deacon or minister, Christian Science practitioner, or other similarly situated functionary of a religious organization, unless the information which would substantiate the report is a communication where the confidentiality is protected by law (i.e., the confessional); • Teaching or child care provider, including any person who provides training and supervision of a child, including any public or private teacher, teacher’s aide, instructional aide, school principal, school staff member, social worker, probation officer, foster home parent, group home or other child care institutional staff member, personnel of residential home facilities, a licensed or unlicensed day care provider, or any individual who provides such services to a child.; • Police officers or law enforcement officials; • Commercial film and photographic print processor; • Court appointed mediators; • Parenting coordinators; and • Court-appointed special advocate (CASA) volunteers under the supervision of a CASA program. <p>A ‘Health Practitioner’ is any individual who provides health care services, including a physician, surgeon, physical therapist, dentist, resident, intern, hospital staff member, podiatrist, chiropractor, licensed nurse, nursing aide, dental hygienist, any emergency medical technician, a paramedic, optometrist, medical examiner, or coroner, who diagnoses, examines, or treats a child or his family.</p> <p>A ‘Mental Health/Social Service Practitioner’ is any individual who provides mental health care or social service diagnosis, assessment, counseling, or treatment, including a psychiatrist, psychologist, marriage or family counselor, social worker, member of the clergy, aide, or other individual who provides counseling services to a child or his family.</p>
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	<p><u>Permitted Reporters</u> Any other person having cause to believe that a child’s physical or mental health or welfare is endangered as a result of abuse or neglect, including a judge of any court of this state.</p>
<i>Standard of Knowledge</i>	Cause to believe that a child’s physical or mental health or welfare is endangered as a result of abuse or neglect or that neglect was a contributing factor in a child’s death.
<i>Definition of Applicable Victim</i>	Person under the age of eighteen (18) years, unless emancipated by reason of marriage or by a judge prior to juvenile proceedings.
<i>Reports Made To</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports of abuse or neglect where the abuser is believed to be a parent or caretaker, a person who maintains an interpersonal dating or engagement relationship with the parent or caretaker, or a person living in the same residence with the parent or caretaker as a spouse whether married or not, should be made to the local child protection unit of the Department of Social Services. • Reports of abuse or neglect where the abuser is someone other than those listed above shall be made to a local or state law enforcement agency.
<i>Contents of Report</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name, address, age, sex, and race of the child; • Nature, extent, and cause of the child’s condition including any previous known or suspected abuse to the child or his/her siblings; • Name and address of the child’s parents or other caretaker; • Names and ages of all other members of the child’s household; • Name and address of the reporter; • Account of how child came to the reporter’s attention; • Any explanation of the cause of the child’s condition offered by the child, the caretaker, or any other person; • Number of times the reporter has filed a report on the child or the child’s siblings; • Name of the person or persons who are believed to have caused or contributed to the child’s condition; and • Any other information that the reporter believes might be important or relevant.
<i>Timing/Other Procedures</i>	Must report immediately. If mandatory reporter made initial oral report, the reporter must follow with a written report within five days to the local child protection unit of the Department of Social Services

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	(see attached for telephone number listings by parish) or local law enforcement agency if necessary.
<i>Other</i>	Failure of a mandatory reporter to report is a misdemeanor subject to a \$500 fine or imprisonment for no more than 6 months, or both.
<i>Source/Applicable Statute(s)</i>	LA. CH.C. ART. 603, <i>amended by</i> La. Sess. Law Serv. Act 394 (2008); LA. CH.C. ART. 609, 610 (2009); LA. R.S. 14:403 (2009).

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