

Tennessee Mandatory Reporting Requirements Regarding Children	
<i>Who Must Report?</i>	<p><u>Abuse</u>: Any person who has knowledge of or is called upon to render aid to any child who is suffering from or has sustained any wound, injury, disability or physical or mental condition.</p> <p><u>Sexual Abuse</u>: Any person, including, but not limited to, any:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physician, osteopathic physician, medical examiner, chiropractor, nurse or hospital personnel engaged in the admission, examination, care or treatment of persons • Any other health or mental health professional; • Practitioner who relies solely on spiritual means for healing; • School teacher or other school official or personnel; • Judge of any court of the state; • Social worker, day care center worker, or other professional child care, foster care, residential or institutional worker; • Law enforcement officer; or • Neighbor, relative, friend or any other person who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been sexually abused.
<i>Standard of Knowledge</i>	<p><u>Abuse</u>: Knowledge of such harm is of such a nature as to reasonably indicate that it has been caused by brutality, abuse or neglect or that, on the basis of available information, reasonably appears to have been caused by brutality, abuse or neglect.</p> <p><u>Sexual Abuse</u>: Knowledge or reasonable cause to suspect sexual abuse.</p>
<i>Definition of Applicable Victim</i>	<p>“Child” means a person who is under 18 years of age or who is reasonably presumed to be under 18 years of age (see in Tenn. Code Ann. §37-1-602 for a definition of “child sexual abuse”).</p>
<i>Reports Made To</i>	<p><i>(In cases of abuse)</i> Judge having juvenile jurisdiction over the child, the department of children’s services, in a manner specified by the department sheriff of the county where the child resides, or chief law enforcement official of the municipality where the child resides.</p> <p><i>(In cases of sexual abuse)</i> The local office of the department of children’s services or to the judge having juvenile jurisdiction or to the office of the sheriff or the chief law enforcement official of the municipality where the child resides. Each report of known or suspected child sexual abuse occurring in a facility licensed by</p>

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	the department of mental health and developmental disabilities, or any hospital, shall also be made to the local law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction where such offense occurred.
<i>Contents of Report</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name of the child; • The address of the child; • The age of the child; • The name of the person responsible for the care of the child; • The address of the person responsible for the care of the child; • Facts requiring the report; and • Any other pertinent information.
<i>Timing/Other Procedures</i>	<p>Reports may be made via telephone, on the Department of Children’s Services hotline (1-877-542-2873 or 1-877-237-0004) or otherwise. Reports of sexual abuse must be made immediately. Report forms available at: https://reportabuse.state.tn.us/.</p>
<i>Other</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowing failure to make a required report is a Class A misdemeanor. • Except as allowed by statute, disclosure or use of information contained in any Report is unlawful and, in the case of sexual abuse, is a Class A misdemeanor. • The duty to report continues as long as the alleged victim of abuse is a child under the age of 18. Tenn. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 88-142. • Any person required to report or investigate cases of suspected child abuse who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child died as a result of child abuse shall report such suspicion to the appropriate medical examiner. • Every physician or other person who makes a diagnosis of, or treats, or prescribes for any sexually transmitted disease, or venereal herpes and chlamydia, in children 13 years of age or younger, and every superintendent or manager of a clinic, dispensary or charitable or penal institution, in which there is a case of any of the diseases, in children 13 years of age or younger shall report the case immediately, in writing on a form supplied by the department of health to that department. • If a school teacher, school official or any other school personnel has knowledge or reasonable cause to suspect that a

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	child who attends such school may be a victim of child abuse or child sexual abuse sufficient to require reporting pursuant to this section and that the abuse occurred on school grounds or while the child was under the supervision or care of the school, then the principal or other person designated by the school shall verbally notify the parent or legal guardian of the child that a report has been made and shall provide other information relevant to the future wellbeing of the child while under the supervision or care of the school.
<i>Source/Applicable Statute(s)</i>	Tenn. Code Ann §37-1 (parts 401-413 and 602-616); <i>amended by Tennessee Laws Pub. Ch. 1011 (2009).</i>

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