

## Mandated Reporters Introduction

A safe community where children can live and grow among caring adults does not just happen. It is created by individuals who are committed and determined to help shape that safe community. Abused or neglected children are especially in need of a caring community. Minnesota policy is protection of children whose health or welfare may be jeopardized through child maltreatment. “While it is recognized that most parents want to keep their children safe, sometimes circumstances or conditions interfere with their ability to do so. When this occurs, the health and safety of children must be of paramount concern. Intervention and prevention efforts must address immediate concerns for child safety and the ongoing risk of abuse or neglect and should engage the protective capacities of families.”

[\[Minn. Stat. 626.556, subd. 1\]](#)

Anyone may voluntarily report suspected child abuse or neglect to the local child protection or law enforcement agency. If you work with children or families, you are *legally required* to report suspected child abuse or neglect.

## When to report suspected abuse or neglect

The law requires mandated reporters to make a report if they know of or have reason to believe a child is being neglected or abused, or has been neglected or abused within the preceding three years. Verbal reports must be made immediately (no longer than 24 hours). A written report must be submitted within 72 hours (weekends and holidays are excluded).

## Who should report suspected child abuse or neglect?

If you are a professional who works with children and families, you are in a key position to help protect children from harm. Minnesota law requires professionals and their delegates who work with children to make a child protection report if they know of or have reason to believe a child:

- Is being neglected or abused, or
- Has been neglected or abused within the preceding three years.

Mandated reporters include professionals and their delegates in the following educational fields:

### Education

- Teachers and assistants
- School administrators
- School support staff.

## Relevant statutes and guidelines

- The Reporting of Maltreatment of Minors Act:  
[\[Minn. Stat. section 626.556\]](#)
- The statute governing reporting of prenatal exposure to controlled substances: [\[Minn. Stat. section 626.5561\]](#)
- The statute regarding the definition of Child in Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS): [\[Minn. Stat. section 260C.007, subd. 6\]](#)
- The administrative rule governing disclosure of records:  
[Minnesota Administrative Rule 9560.0230](#)
- The federal statute governing Indian children in the child welfare system: [Indian Child Welfare Act, \(ICWA\) 25 USC 1901 ET SEQ](#)
- The state statute governing Indian children in the child welfare system:  
[Minn. Stat. 260.762](#)