

State Laws on Mandatory Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse

Below are summaries of state laws regarding mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse, and toll-free phone numbers for reporting abuse. Additional information is available at <http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/topics/reporting/index.cfm>. Congregations may find a membership at the following Church Mutual site useful: <http://www.reducingtherisk.com/>.

	New York	New Jersey	Connecticut	Pennsylvania
Phone	800-342-3720	800-792-8610; 800-835-5510 (TDD/hearing impaired)	800-842-2288 800-624-5518 (TDD/hearing impaired)	800-932-0313
Statute	Soc. Serv. Law §§ 411 et seq. (2002)	Stats. §§ 9:6-8.9 et seq. (1987)	Gen. Stats. §§ 17a-101 et seq. (2002)	Consol. Stats. title 23 §§ 6311 et seq. (1995)
Reportable abuse	A child under 18 defined as an abused child by the family court act	Physical, sexual, or mental abuse by a child's parent, guardian, or other person having his custody and control	Physical, sexual, or mental abuse inflicted by a person responsible for a child's health, welfare or care, or by a person given access to such child by such responsible person	Physical, sexual, or mental abuse
Mandatory reporters	Any school official or day care center worker [413]	Any person having reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse [9:6-8.10]	Any member of the clergy, school teacher, principal, or guidance counselor, mental health professional, licensed marital and family therapist, or any person paid to care for a child in any public or private facility, day care center or family day care home which is licensed by the state	Any "member of the clergy," school teacher or employee, day-care center worker [6311]
Where to report	Oral reports shall be made to the statewide central register of child abuse and maltreatment unless the appropriate local plan for the provision of child protective services provides that oral reports should be made to the local child protective service.	Division of Youth and Family Services	A law enforcement agency or the Commission of Children and Families	Department of Public Welfare
Clergy privilege	No reference	No reference	No reference	"Except with respect to confidential communications made to an ordained member of the clergy . . . the privileged communication between any professional person required to report and the patient or client of that person shall not apply to situations involving child abuse and shall not constitute grounds for failure to report as required by this chapter." [6311]