

Introduction: Analyzing State Laws That Impact Child Sexual Abuse in Youth Sports

In researching legal issues concerning the sexual abuse of children in youth sports, the LDICP prepared three legislative surveys covering the fifty states and U.S. territories.

LDICP Legislative Surveys of the United States and Its Territories

- Circle of Trust Perpetrators of Child Sexual Abuse: Maximum Penalties by State
- Employee and Volunteer Background Checks for Those Working with Children: Laws by State
- Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse: Laws by State

These legislative surveys have been posted on the LDICP website. In making use of these materials, researchers should take note of the following constraints:

Circle of Trust Perpetrators of Child Sexual Abuse: Maximum Penalties by State

This survey reviews state laws that enhance penalties for child sexual abuse perpetrators who hold a position of authority or position of trust as to the child victim. (Such perpetrators are said to be “within the child’s Circle of Trust.”¹)

- 1) This survey covers only sexual crimes against children. It does not cover other child abuse crimes such as physical or emotional abuse.
- 2) In some states, the law cited constitutes a penalty enhancement for an underlying crime, such as “Child Sexual Abuse.” In other states, the law cited constitutes a separately chargeable crime.
- 3) The penalties listed for each state are the maximums. The specific penalty in a given case is decided at sentencing.
- 4) Each state establishes its own minimum penalty for conviction under its Circle of Trust law. In some states, conviction under the Circle of Trust law may render the offender eligible for probation; in such cases, conviction under the law may result in no incarceration.

Employee and Volunteer Background Checks for Those Working with Children: Laws by State

This survey reviews state laws that require organizations working with children to conduct background checks on potential employees and volunteers. It does not cover background check laws affecting those who do not work with children.

Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse: Laws by State

This survey reviews state laws that require individuals in certain professions to report suspected child abuse to police or child protective services. It includes information regarding immunity from liability for good-faith reporting, as well as penalties for mandatory reporters who fail to report to police or child protective services.

¹ The term “Circle of Trust” was coined by Andrew Vachss, an attorney who only represents children and who has written extensively on issues of child protection.

Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse: Laws by State

State	Mandatory Reporters	Mandatory Reporter Liability	Permissive Reporters	Other Distinguishing Information
Alabama	Code of Ala. § 26-14-3. Includes employees of public school; public and private K-12 employees; school teachers and officials; employees of public and private institutions of postsecondary and higher education; and members of the clergy.	Code of Ala. § 26-14-13. Any person who shall knowingly fail to make required report shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and punished by a sentences of not more than 6 months or a fine of no more than \$500.	Code of Ala. § 26-14-4. Any person who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is being abused or neglected may report.	
Alaska	Alaska Stat. § 47.17.020. Includes school teachers and school administrative staff members, including coaches.	Alaska Stat. § 47.17.020(b); Alaska Stat. § 12.55.135. Failure to report results in a class A misdemeanor. A defendant convicted of a class A misdemeanor may be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not more than one year.	Alaska Stat. § 47.17.020(b). Any other person that has reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or neglect.	Alaska Stat. § 47.17.020(b); Alaska Stat. § 47.17.068. Persons who have mandatory reporting capacity may also report in their non-occupational capacities. Permissive reporter's failure to report has the same liability as a mandatory reporter's failure to report. This appears to make permissive reporting mandatory.
Arizona	Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 13-3620(A). Includes school personnel who develop the reasonable belief in the course of their employment and any other person who has responsibility for the care or treatment of the minor.	Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 13-3509; Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 13-702; Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 13-707. A person who violates this section is guilty of a class 1 misdemeanor or Class 6 felony. A Class 6 felony results in a term of imprisonment between .33 and 2 years. A class 1 misdemeanor is punishable by a maximum limit of 6 months incarceration served other than a place within custody of the state department of corrections.	Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 13-3620(f). Any person other than one required to report may report.	
Arkansas	Ark. Code Ann. § 12-18-402. Includes public or private school counselors; school officials; and teachers.	Ark. Code Ann. § 12-18-202; Ark. Code Ann. § 5-4-401. Failure to notify by a mandated reporter is a Class A misdemeanor or Class C misdemeanor. For a Class A misdemeanor, the sentence shall not exceed 1 year. For a Class C misdemeanor, the sentence shall not exceed 30 days.	Ark. Code Ann. § 12-18-401. A person may report when he reasonably suspects or observes maltreatment of a child, a child has died as a result of maltreatment.	

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California	Cal. Penal Code § 11165.7. Includes a teacher; teacher's aide or assistant employed by a public or private school; administrator of a public or private day camp; classified employee of a public school; and an administrator or employee of a public or private youth center, rec program, or organization.	Cal. Penal Code § 11166(c). Misdemeanor punishable by up to 6 months jail time; a fine of \$1000; or both.	Cal. Penal Code § 11166(g). Any other person who has knowledge of or observes abuse or neglect.	
Colorado	Colo. Rev. Stat. § 19-3-304(2). Includes a public or private school official or employee.	Colo. Rev. Stat. § 19-3-304(4); Colo. Rev. Stat. § 18-1.3-501. Failure to report is a class 3 misdemeanor which is punishable by a minimum sentence of \$50 or maximum sentence of 6 months imprisonment, a \$750 fine, or both.	Colo. Rev. Stat. § 19-3-304(3). Any other person may report known or suspected child abuse or neglect.	Colo. Rev. Stat. § 19-3-304(4). In Colorado, any person who fails to report commits a class 3 misdemeanor and shall be liable for damages proximately caused thereby.
Connecticut	Conn. Gen. Stat. § 17a-101(b). Includes any school employee; any paid youth camp director or assistant director; and any person paid to care for a child in any public or private facility.	Conn. Gen. Stat. § 17a-101a(b). Guilty of a Class A or E misdemeanor. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-36. Class A misdemeanor is punished by a term of imprisonment not to exceed 1 year.	Conn. Gen. Stat. § 17a-101a(b). Any person who has reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or neglect.	
Delaware	Del. Code Ann. tit. 16, § 903. Any person who knows or in good faith suspects child abuse or neglect. "Person" includes school employees.	Del. Code Ann tit. 16 § 914(a). Whoever violates shall be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000 for first violation and not to exceed \$50k for subsequent violations.	Del. Code Ann. tit. 16 § 903. "All persons" who know or in good faith suspects child abuse or neglect shall make a report.	The text of Del. Code Ann. tit. 16, § 903 appears to cover all persons as a mandatory reporter for the state of Delaware.
Florida	Fla. Stat. § 39.201. Any person who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect abuse, abandonment, or neglect shall report such knowledge.	Fla. Stat. § 775.082. A 3rd degree felony is punishable by a term of imprisonment not exceeding 5 years.	Fla. Stat. § 39.201. All persons are considered mandatory reports.	Fla. Stat. § 39.201. According to the text, it seems all persons are considered mandatory reports.
Georgia	Ga. Code Ann. § 19-7-5(c). Includes school teachers; school administrators; and school counselors.	Ga. Code Ann. § 17-10-3. Misdemeanor is punished by fine not to exceed \$1000, up to 12 months confinement in a state probation detention center, or both.	Ga. Code Ann. § 19-7-5(d). Any other person not specified in (c) may report.	

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Hawaii	Haw. Rev. Stat. § 350-1.1. Includes employees or officers of any public or private school, agency, or institution and employees of any public or private agency providing recreational or sports activities.	Haw. Rev. Stat. § 350-1.2. Haw. Rev. Stat. § 706-663. Petty misdemeanor is punishable by a term of imprisonment not to exceed 30 days.	Haw. Rev. Stat. § 350-1.3. Any person not required to report may immediately report.	
Idaho	Idaho Code Ann. § 16-1605. Any person who has reason to believe that a child under 18 has been abused, abandoned, or neglected <u>shall</u> report within 24 hours. This includes school employees.	Idaho Code Ann. § 16-1605. Idaho Code Ann. § 18-113. Failure to report shall be a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in county jail not to exceed 6 months, or a fine not exceeding \$1000, or by both.	Idaho Code Ann. § 16-1605. Any person who has reason to believe that a child under 18 has been abused, abandoned, or neglected <u>shall</u> report within 24 hours.	Idaho Code Ann. § 16-1605. All persons are mandatory reporters with specific emphasis on medical personnel and teachers.
Illinois	325 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/4. Includes school personnel (including administrators, certified and non-certified employees, educational advocates, or truant officers; personnel of institutions of higher education; members of a school board or the Chicago Board of Education; and members of governing body of a private school.	325 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/4. 730 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/5-4.5-55. Any physician who willfully fails to report shall be referred to the Medical Disciplinary Bd. Any dentist/dental hygienist who willfully fails to report suspected child abuse or neglect shall be referred to the Department of Professional Regulation. Any other person who willfully fails to report is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor punishable by a term of imprisonment for less than 1 year.	325 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/4. Any other person may make a report if such person has reasonable cause to believe a child may be abused or neglected.	
Indiana	Ind. Code § 31-33-5-1. An individual who has reason to believe that a child is a victim of child abuse or neglect shall make a report.	Ind. Code § 31-33-5-1. Ind. Code § 35-50-3-3. Class B Misdemeanor is punishable by a term of imprisonment for no more than 180 days; and a fine of not more than \$1000.	Ind. Code § 31-33-5-1. All persons with reason to believe a child is being abused shall make a report.	
Iowa	Iowa Code § 232.69. Licensed school employee, holder of a coaching authorization, instructor employed by a community college. The requirement applies when in the scope of reporter's professional capacity.	Iowa Code § 232.75. Iowa Code § 903.1. Simple misdemeanor punishable by a fine of at least \$65, but not more than \$625; and/or a term of imprisonment not to exceed 30 days.	Iowa Code § 232.69. Any other person who believes a child has been abused.	Iowa Code § 232.69. Iowa's mandatory reporters are only bound to make reports on children 11 years of age and under. For children at least 12 years old, reporting is permissive. Iowa Code § 232.75. In addition to a simple misdemeanor charge, civil liability will result from damages proximately caused by their failure or interference.

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Kansas	Kan. Stat. Ann. § 38-2223. Includes teachers, school administrators, and other employees of an education institution that the child is attending.	Kan. Stat. Ann. § 38-2223. Kan. Stat. Ann. § 21-6602. Willful and knowing failure to make a report is a class B misdemeanor punishable by a definite term of confinement in the county jail not to exceed 6 months.	Kan. Stat. Ann. § 38-2223. Any person who has reason to suspect a child is in need of support may report.	Kan. Stat. Ann. § 38-2223. Failure to report because another mandatory reporter made a report is not a defense.
Kentucky	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 620.030. Includes teachers and school personnel.	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 620.030. First Offense is a Class B misdemeanor and is punishable by a term of imprisonment not to exceed 90 days. Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 532.090. A fine may be levied as an alternative, or in addition to imprisonment. The fine for a Class B misdemeanor is not to exceed \$250. Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 534.040.	Ky. Rev. Stat. § 620.030. Any person who has reasonable cause to believe a child is being abused or neglected, <u>shall</u> report.	All persons with reasonable cause to believe a child is being abused is a mandatory reporter.
Louisiana	La. Child. Code art. 603(17). Includes coaches; college or university staff members; public and private teachers; school principals; and school staff members.	La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 14:403. Any person who knowingly/willingly fails to report must pay a fine not more than \$500, imprisoned for not more than 6 months, or both.	La. Child. Code art. 609. Any person having cause to believe a child is endangered as a result of abuse or neglect may report.	La. Child. Code art. 603.1 mandates that in order to receive teacher certification, one must attend an educational workshop on how to identify signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect.
Maine	Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 22, § 4011-A. Includes teachers; guidance counselors; youth camp administrators; and school officials.	Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 22, § 4014. A party is immune from civil or criminal liability for reporting or participating in an investigation.	Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 22, § 4011-A(1-A), (3). Animal control officer; any person	Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 22, § 4014. Presumption of good faith when reporting abuse.
Maryland	Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § 5-704. Each educator or human service worker.	Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § 5-708. A party is immune from civil or criminal liability for reporting or participating in an investigation.	Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § 5-704.1. Any individual who has reason to believe that a parent, guardian, or caregiver of a child allows the child to reside with or be in the regular presence of an individual, other than the child's parent or guardian, who is a registered under Title 11, Subtitle 7 of the Criminal Procedure Article based on the commission of an offense against a child; and based on additional information, poses a substantial risk of sexual abuse to the child	Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § 5-708. Statute is silent as it pertains to good faith.

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Massachusetts	Mass. Ann. Laws ch. 119, § 51A. Includes coaches and teachers.	<p>Mass. Ann. Laws ch. 119, § 51A(g). A party is immune from civil or criminal liability for reporting in good faith if the report is not frivolous and the reporter did not cause the abuse.</p> <p>Mass. Ann. Laws ch. 119, § 51A(C). A mandated reporter who fails to report shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000. If the reporter knows that the abuse or neglect resulted in serious bodily injury or death, and the reporter willfully failed to report, he shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or a term of imprisonment not to exceed 2.5 years or both.</p>	Mass. Ann. Laws ch. 119, § 51A. Any person with reason to believe a child is suffering or died as a result of abuse or neglect.	Mass. Ann. Laws ch. 119, § 51A(C). If a person knowingly files a frivolous report, he shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$2,000 for a first offense and a fine and a term of imprisonment for a second offense.
Michigan	Mich. Comp. Laws § 722.623. Includes school administrators; school counselors; and teachers.	Mich. Comp. Laws § 722.625. A reporter is immune from civil or criminal liability if he acts in good faith. Immunity extends only to acts done according to the act.	Mich. Comp. Laws § 722.624. Any person, including a child, who has reason to suspect child abuse	Mich. Comp. Laws § 722.625. There is a presumption of good faith.
Minnesota	Minn. Stat. § 626.556. Includes all persons engaged in the practice of education and child care.	Minn. Stat. § 626.556. A reporter is immune from any civil or criminal liability if the reporter acted in good faith. There is no immunity if the reporter fails to report. A person who fails to report is guilty of a misdemeanor. If a person fails to report and knows or has reason to believe two or more children not related to the perpetrator have been physically or sexually abused by the same perpetrator within the preceding 10 years, he is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.	Minn. Stat. § 626.556. Any person who knows, has reason to believe, or suspects a child is being or has been neglected or subjected to physical or sexual abuse. .	

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Mississippi	<p>Miss. Code Ann. § 43-21-353. The statute lists the following individuals as mandatory reporters for child abuse and neglect: any public or private school employee, attorney, physician, dentist, intern, resident, nurse, psychologist, social worker, family protection worker, family protection specialists, child care giver, minister, or law enforcement officer. It also includes the catch-all: "<i>any other person having reasonable cause to suspect that a child is a neglected child or an abused child.</i>" This suggests that all persons are mandatory reporters.</p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. § 97-5-51(1)(b). "Mandatory reporter" for sex crimes against minors means any of the following individuals performing their occupational duties: teaching or child care providers; health care practitioners; clergy members; law enforcement officers; and commercial image processors.</p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. § 97-5-51(1)(e). "Teaching or child care provider" means anyone who provides training or supervision of a minor under the age of 16, including a teacher, teacher's aide, principal or staff member of a school, social worker, probation officer, foster home parent, group home or child care institutional staff member, personnel of residential home facilities, and day care providers.</p>	<p>Miss. Code Ann. § 97-5-51(2)(d) and § 43-21-355. A reporter acting in good faith is immune from criminal and civil liability.</p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. § 43-21-353. If a person discloses information about a report of abuse in any manner not provided for in the law is guilty of a misdemeanor.</p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. § 97-5-51(6). A reporter who fails to report will be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not more than \$500 for a first offense; will be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than 30 days, or both for a second offense; and will be guilty and fined not more than \$5,000, or imprisoned not more than one year, or both for a third or subsequent offense.</p>	<p>Miss. Code Ann. § 43-21-353. "[A]ny other person having reasonable cause to suspect that a child is a neglected child or an abused child" is a mandatory reporter.</p>	<p>Miss. Code Ann. § 97-5-51(2)(d) and § 43-21-355. A reporter is presumed to be acting in good faith.</p>
Missouri	<p>Mo. Rev. Stat. § 210.115. Includes teachers, principals, school officials, child care workers, and any person with the responsibility of the care of children.</p>	<p>Mo. Rev. Stat. § 210.165. [Effective until January 2, 2017] Any person violating this statute is guilty of a class A misdemeanor and may be imprisoned for no longer than one year and not less than six months. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 557.021 and § 558.011. [Effective until January 1, 2017]</p>	<p>Mo. Rev. Stat. § 210.115. Any person who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been or may be subjected to abuse or neglect.</p>	<p>Mo. Rev. Stat. § 352.400. This statute mandates ministers as mandatory reporters.</p>

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Montana	Mont. Code Ann. § 41-3-201. Includes teachers, school officials, and other employees who work during school hours.	Mont. Code Ann. § 41-3-203. Any person who reports in good faith is immune from civil and criminal liability. Mont. Code Ann. § 41-3-207. Any person who fails to report is guilty of a misdemeanor and may be civilly liable for damage caused by that failure.	Mont. Code Ann. § 41-3-201. Any person who has reasonable cause to suspect a child has been abused or neglected.	Mont. Code Ann. § 41-3-201. Clergy or priest not required to make a report if he/she gets a statement from another in a communication required to be confidential by church doctrine, etc. Immune from liability unless bad faith report.
Nebraska	Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-711. All people who have reasonable cause to suspect child abuse, including school employees.	Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-716. Any person who reports or participates in an investigation shall be immune from civil or criminal liability except for maliciously false statements. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-717. Any person who willfully fails to report is guilty of a Class III misdemeanor and may be imprisoned for no more than three months, fined \$500, or both.	N/A because all people are reporters.	Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-707. The statutory privilege between patient and physician, between client and professional counselor, and between husband and wife shall not be available for excluding or refusing testimony in any prosecution for a violation.
Nevada	Nev. Rev. Stat. § 432B.220. Includes any school employee and any person employed by an entity that provides organized activities to children.	Nev. Rev. Stat. § 432B.240. Any mandatory reporter that fails to make a report is guilty of a misdemeanor for the first violation, and a gross misdemeanor for each subsequent violation.	Nev. Rev. Stat. § 432B.220. Any person who has knowledge of or reasonably believes child abuse or neglect is occurring.	
New Hampshire	N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 169-C:29. Any person having reason to suspect child abuse or neglect, including a teacher, school official, counselor, and child-care worker.	N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 169-C:31. A person who reports in good faith is immune from civil or criminal liability. N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 169-C:39. Anyone who knowingly fails to report is guilty of a misdemeanor and if charged with a Class A misdemeanor may be sentenced to imprisonment or fined. If charged with a Class B misdemeanor, the person may not be incarcerated, but may be fined and sanctioned.	N/A because all people are mandatory reporters.	N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 169-C:32. Attorneys are not required to report if it violates attorney-client privilege.

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New Jersey	N.J. Stat. Ann. § 9:6-8.10. Any person who has reasonable cause to suspect child abuse.	N.J. Stat. Ann. § 9:6-8.13. Any person who reports abuse pursuant to the act is immune from criminal or civil liability. N.J. Stat. Ann. § 9:6-8.14. A person who fails to report is a "disorderly person" and may be sentenced to no more than 6 months in jail.	N/A because all people are reporters.	
New Mexico	N.M. Stat. § 32A-4-3. Any person that has knowledge or has reasonable suspicion that a child is being abused or neglected, including a school teacher and school official. No duty to report if the information is privileged as a matter of law.	N.M. Stat. § 32A-4-5. Any person who reports in good faith shall be immune from civil or criminal liability. N.M. Stat. § 32A-4-33. Any person who fails to report, or obstructs reporting, is guilty of a misdemeanor and may be imprisoned for no more than one year, fined not more than \$1,000, or both.	N/A because all people are reporters.	N.M. Stat. § 32A-4-5. A reporter is presumed to have acted in good faith, but that presumption is rebuttable.
New York	N.Y. Soc. Serv. Laws § 413. Includes school employees required to hold a temporary coaching license or professional coaching certificate, school officials, teachers, school administrators, and camp directors.	N.Y. Soc. Serv. Laws § 419. Any person who reports in good faith shall be immune from civil or criminal liability. N.Y. Soc. Serv. Laws § 420. Any mandated reporter who willfully fails to report shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor and may be imprisoned for no more than one year. Additionally, the person is civilly liable for the damages proximately caused by such failure.	N.Y. Soc. Serv. Laws § 414. Any person may make a report if there is reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or maltreatment.	N.Y. Soc. Serv. Laws § 419. A reporter is presumed to have acted in good faith, but that presumption can be rebutted if there was willful misconduct or gross negligence.

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North Carolina	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. § 7B-301. All people who have cause to suspect a child is abused, neglected, or dependent.</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. § 7B-309. Any person who reports in good faith will be immune from civil and criminal liability.</p> <p>N.C. Gen. Stat. § 7B-301. Any person or institution who knowingly fails to report or prevents another from reporting is guilty of a class 1 misdemeanor and may be imprisoned for no more than 45 days, fined, or both.</p>	<p>N/A because all people are reporters.</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. § 7B-309. Any person who reports is presumed to act in good faith.</p> <p>N.C. Gen. Stat. § 7B-310. No privilege except attorney-client privilege is grounds for failing to report.</p>
North Dakota	<p>N.D. Cent. Code § 50-25.1-03. Includes school teachers or administrators, school counselors, and child care workers.</p>	<p>N.D. Cent. Code § 50-25.1-09. Any person who reports in good faith, other than the violator, is immune from civil or criminal liability.</p> <p>N.D. Cent. Code § 50-25.1-13. Any person who fails to report is guilty of a class B misdemeanor and may be imprisoned for no more than 30 days, fined \$1,500, or both. Any person who willfully makes a false report is guilty of a class B misdemeanor; if the false report is to law enforcement, the person is guilty of a class A misdemeanor and may be imprisoned for no more than one year, fined \$3,000, or both. A person who makes a false report is also liable in a civil action for all damage caused by the false report.</p>	<p>N.D. Cent. Code § 50-25.1-03. Any person who has reasonable cause to suspect a child is abused or neglected, or has died as a result of either.</p>	<p>N.D. Cent. Code § 50-25.1-13. Class B misdemeanor for willful false reports, Class A misdemeanor for a willful false report to a law enforcement officer.</p> <p>N.D. Cent. Code § 50-25.1-09. Any person who reports is presumed to have acted in good faith.</p>

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Ohio	Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2151.421. Includes school employees, school authorities, teachers, and administrators and employees of day camps.	Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2151.421. Any person who reports in good faith shall be immune from civil or criminal liability. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2151.421(M). A reporter who fails to report is liable for compensatory and exemplary damages to the child who would have been the subject of the report that was not made. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2921.14. A reporter who knowingly makes a false report, or causes another to, is guilty of a first-degree misdemeanor.	Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2151.421. Any person who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect a child has suffered or faces a threat of suffering from abuse or neglect.	Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2921.14. Any permissive reporter who knowingly makes or causes another person to make a false report of child abuse or neglect is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.
Oklahoma	Okla. Stat. tit. 10A, § 1-2-101. Every person having reason to believe that a child is a victim of abuse or neglect.	Okla. Stat. tit. 10A, § 1-2-104. Any person who reports in good faith is immune from civil or criminal liability. Okla. Stat. tit. 10A, § 1-2-101. Any person who fails to report, or interferes with the reporting of, suspected child abuse shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Any person with prolonged knowledge of ongoing child abuse or neglect who willfully fails to report shall be guilty of a felony.	N/A because all people are mandatory reporters.	Okla. Stat. tit. 10A, § 1-2-104. Any person who reports is presumed to have acted in good faith. Okla. Stat. tit. 10A, § 1-2-101. No privilege or contract relieves a person of a duty to report. Okla. Stat. tit. 10A, § 1-2-101. Any person who knowingly and willfully makes a false report shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

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Oregon	<p>Or. Rev. Stat. § 419B.010. Any public or private official having reasonable cause to believe that any child with whom the official comes in contact has suffered abuse or that any person with whom the official comes in contact has abused a child.</p> <p>Or. Rev. Stat. § 419B.005. "Public or private official" includes youth coaches and trainers, employees of organizations providing child-related services or activities such as day camps, and school employees.</p>	<p>Or. Rev. Stat. § 419B.025. Any person who reports in good faith is immune from civil or criminal liability.</p> <p>Or. Rev. Stat. § 419B.010. Any person who fails to report is guilty of a Class A violation and may be fined no more than \$435.</p>	<p>Or. Rev. Stat. § 419B.015. Any person may voluntarily make a report.</p>	<p>Or. Rev. Stat. § 419B.016. A person making a false report of child abuse is guilty of a Class A violation and may be fined no more than \$435.</p> <p>Or. Rev. Stat. § 419B.010. Psychiatrists, psychologists, clergy members, attorneys, and guardians ad litem are not required to report if the communication was privileged.</p>
Pennsylvania	<p>23 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 6311. Includes school employees and individuals (paid or unpaid) who are responsible for a child's welfare or has direct contact with children through activity or services</p>	<p>23 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 6318. Any person who reports in good faith is immune from civil or criminal liability.</p> <p>23 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 6319. If a reporter willfully fails to report, the child abuse constitutes a felony of the first degree or higher, and the person has direct knowledge of the nature of the abuse, then the person is guilty of a felony of the third degree and may be imprisoned for no more than seven years, fined no more than \$15,000, or both. Otherwise, the person who failed to report is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree and may be imprisoned for no more than two years, fined no more than \$5,000, or both.</p>	<p>23 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 6312. Any person that has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is a victim of child abuse.</p>	<p>23 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 6318. A person who reports is presumed to have acted in good faith.</p>

Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse: Laws by State

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Rhode Island	R.I. Gen. Laws § 40-11-3 Any person who has reasonable cause to know or suspect any child has been abused or neglected.	R.I. Gen. Laws § 40-11-4. Any person who reports in good faith is immune from civil and criminal liability. R.I. Gen. Laws § 40-11-6.1 Any person who fails to report, or prevents any person from doing so, is guilty of a misdemeanor and may be imprisoned for no more than one year, fined no more than \$500, or both. This person will also be civilly liable for the damages proximately caused for the failure to report.	N/A because all people are mandatory reporters.	R.I. Gen. Laws §40-11-3.2. Any person who knowingly and willfully makes or causes to be made a false report of child abuse or neglect is guilty of a misdemeanor and may be imprisoned for no more than one year, fined not more \$1,000, or both.
South Carolina	S.C. Code Ann. § 63-7-310. Includes school teachers, counselors, principals, assistant principals, and school attendance officer.	S.C. Code Ann. § 63-7-390. A person who reports in good faith is immune from civil and criminal liability. S.C. Code Ann. § 63-7-410. A person who knowingly fails to report is guilty of a misdemeanor and may be imprisoned for not more than six months, fine not more than \$500, or both.	Any person can be a permissive reporter.	S.C. Code Ann. § 63-7-390. A person who reports is presumed to have acted in good faith. That presumption can be rebutted. S.C. Code Ann. § 63-7-440, 430. A person who knowingly makes a false report is guilty of a misdemeanor and may be imprisoned for not more than 90 days, fined not more than \$5,000, or both. The person may also be liable for civil damages.
South Dakota	S.D. Codified Laws § 26-8A-3. Includes teachers, school counselors, school officials, and employees or volunteers of a child advocacy organization or child welfare provider. S.D. Codified Laws § 26-8A-7. Any person who has contact with a child through the performance of services in any public or private school, including, teacher, school nurse, school counselor, and school official or administrator.	S.D. Codified Laws § 26-8A-14. A person who reports in good faith is immune from civil and criminal liability. S.D. Codified Laws § 26-8A-3 and S.D. Codified Laws § 26-8A-7. Any person who fails to report is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.	S.D. Codified Laws § 26-8A-3. Any person who knows or has reason to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected.	

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Tennessee	<p>Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-403. Any person who has knowledge of or is called upon to render aid to any child who suffered injuries likely caused by brutality, abuse or neglect.</p> <p>Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-605. Any person, including authority figures at community facilities used for recreation or social assemblies, school teachers, other school officials and personnel, who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect a child has been sexually abused.</p>	<p>Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-410. A health care worker who reports under § 37-1-403 in good faith will have civil and criminal immunity.</p> <p>Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-613. Any person who acts in good faith, if authorized and required by the statute, will be immune from civil or criminal liability.</p> <p>Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-615. Any person who fails to report known or suspected child sexual abuse, or prevents another from doing so, is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor and may be imprisoned for no more than 11 months and 29 days, fined no more than \$2,500, or both.</p>	All persons over the age of 18 may be mandatory reporters.	
Texas	<p>Tex. Fam. Code Ann. § 261.101. Every person is a mandatory reporter, including lawyers and clergy.</p>	<p>Tex. Fam. Code Ann. § 261.106. A person acting in good faith is immune from civil and criminal liability.</p> <p>Tex. Fam. Code Ann. § 261.109. A person who fails to report is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor if the person is a professional.</p>	N/A because all people are reporters.	<p>Tex. Fam. Code Ann. § 261.107. Punishment for false report is a state jail felony. Liable to state for civil penalty of \$1,000.</p>
Utah	<p>Utah Code Ann. § 62A-4a-403. Any person who has reason to believe that child abuse occurred except for clergy who learned about the abuse through confession of the perpetrator.</p>	<p>Utah Code Ann. § 62A-4a-410. Any person who reports in good faith is immune from liability.</p> <p>Utah Code Ann. § 62A-4a-411. A person who fails to report is guilty of a Class B Misdemeanor.</p>	Any person can be a permissive reporter.	

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Vermont	Vt. Stat. Ann., tit. 33, § 4913. Includes school teachers, student teachers, guidance counselors, school principals, camp owners or administrators, and camp counselors.	Vt. Stat. Ann., tit. 33, § 4913(f)(1). Any person other than the suspect, who acts in good faith is immune from any civil or criminal liability. Vt. Stat. Ann., tit. 33, § 4913(h). A person who fails to report shall be fined not more than \$500. If the person fails to report with the intent to conceal abuse or neglect, the person shall be imprisoned for not more than 6 months, or fined not more than \$1,000, or both.	Vt. Stat. Ann., tit. 33, § 4913(e). Any other person who has reasonable cause to believe that abuse occurred can report.	
Virginia	Va. Code Ann. § 63.2-1509. Includes teachers; any athletic coach, directors or other persons 18 years of age or older employed by or volunteering with a private sports organization or team; and persons employed by any school.	Va. Code Ann. § 63.2-1509(D). Any person who fails to report may be fined not more than \$500 for the first failure and for any subsequent failures not less than \$1,000. In cases evidencing acts of rape, sodomy, or object sexual penetration a person fails to report is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.	Va. Code Ann. § 63.2-1510. Any person who suspects that a child has been abused or neglected may make a complaint.	Va. Code Ann. § 63.2-1509: Requirement that certain injuries to children be reported by physicians, nurses, teachers, etc.; penalty for failure to report. Va. Code Ann. § 63.2-1510: Complaints by others of certain injuries to children. Va. Code Ann. § 63.2-1509(C) - Any person who testifies in a judicial proceeding has immunity, unless the person acted in bad faith or with malicious intent.
Washington	Wash. Rev. Code §26.44.030. Person in supervisory role with nonprofit or for-profit organization, provided the person accused is employed or volunteers with the organization and coaches, trains, educates children or has unsupervised access to a child. Administrative and academic or athletic department employees, student employees, and institutions of higher education. Any person who has reasonable cause to believe abuse has occurred.	Wash. Rev. Code §26.44.060. Person in good faith making report is immune from any liability. Wash. Rev. Code §26.44.080. Any person who fails to report is guilty of a gross misdemeanor and may be imprisoned up to 364 days in county jail, or fined \$5,000 or less, or both.	Any person who has reasonable cause to believe abuse has occurred is a mandatory reporter.	Wash. Rev. Code §26.44.030. Mandatory reporters have 48 hours to report.

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West Virginia	W. Va. Code § 49-2-803. School teachers, coaches or volunteers of an entity that provides organized activities for children, or any person over the age of 18 that receives disclosure from a credible witness or observes the abuse.	W. Va. Code § 49-2-812. Any person who fails to report or prevents another from reporting is guilty of a misdemeanor. Confined in jail not more than 90 days or fined not more than \$5,000, or both fined and confined.	Any person can be a permissive reporter.	
Wisconsin	Wis. Stat. § 48.981(2). Includes school teachers, school administrators, school counselors, and all school employees.	Wis. Stat. § 48.981(4). Any person who makes report in good faith are immune from liability, civilly and criminally. Wis. Stat. § 48.981(6). Whoever fails to report as required may be fined \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than 6 months, or both.	Wis. Stat. § 48.981(2)(c). Any person not otherwise specified, including an attorney, who has reason to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected or who has reason to believe that a child has been threatened with abuse or neglect and that abuse or neglect of the child will occur may report.	Wis. Stat. § 48.981(2)(e). No person making a good faith report may be discharged from employment, disciplined, or discriminated against in regards to employment. Wis. Stat. § 48.981(2m). A healthcare reporter, or person who obtains information about a child from a healthcare provider, is not required to report: Unless abuse likely occurred with caregiver, child has mental illness or is incapable of understanding the act, the child due to age or immaturity could not understand the act, child was unconscious or unable to communicate unwillingness, other participant was exploiting the child. (3) Members of clergy does not have to report.
Wyoming	Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 14-3-205. Any person who knows or has reasonable cause to believe or suspect that a child is abused or who observes any child being subjected to circumstance that would reasonable result in abuse.	Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 14-3-209. Any person participating in a good faith report is immune from criminal and civil liability.	All persons over the age of 18 are mandatory reporters.	Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 14-3-205 (d). Any person who knowingly and intentionally makes a false report of child abuse or neglect, or who encourages or coerces another person to make a false report of child abuse or neglect, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 6 months, a fine of not more than \$750.00, or both.
Washington, D.C.	D.C. Code § 4-1321.02. Includes school officials, teachers, and athletics coaches.	D.C. Code § 4-1321.04. Any person or institution in good faith in the making of a report shall be immune from liability, civil or criminal. D.C. Code § 4-1321.07. Any person required to make a report who willfully fails to make such a report shall be fined, or imprisoned not more than 180 days, or both.	Any person can be a permissive reporter.	

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Guam	Guam Code Ann. tit. 19, § 13201. Any person who, in the course of his or her employment, occupation, or practice of his or her profession, comes into contact with children shall, including school administrators, school teachers, school nurses, and school counselors.	Guam Code Ann. tit. 19, § 13206. Any person making a good faith effort to report or engage in proceedings will have civil and criminal immunity. Guam Code Ann. tit. 19, § 13207. Any person who fails to report is guilty of a misdemeanor and is punishable by confinement for a term not to exceed 6 months, by a fine of not more than \$1,000, or by both.	Guam Code Ann. tit. 19, § 13202. Any person can be a permissive reporter if that person has a reasonable cause to suspect that a child is an abused or neglected child.	
Mariana	6 N. Mar. I. Code § 5313. Any school teacher or other school official.	6 N. Mar. I. Code § 5314. Any person making a good faith effort to make a report shall be immune from any and all civil or criminal liability. 6 N. Mar. I. Code § 5315. Knowing or willful failure to report shall be punished by imprisonment for up to 1 year, or a fine of \$1,000, or both.	6 N. Mar. I. Code § 5313(c). Any person not obligated to do so, may report known or suspected instances of child abuse.	6 N. Mar. I. Code § 5316. Knowing or willful interference by any person with the good-faith efforts of any person making or attempting to make a report shall be punished by up to 1 year imprisonment, or fine of \$1,000, or both.
Puerto Rico	P.R. Law Ann. tit. 8, § 446. Professionals or public officials, public, private, and privatized entities which, in their professional capacity and in the performance of their duties, may learn of or come to suspect that a minor is, has been, or is at risk of becoming a victim of abuse, and/or institutional neglect.	P.R. Law Ann. tit. 8, § 450a. Any person who voluntarily and deliberately fails to report shall be sanctioned by a fine up to \$5000 or by imprisonment up to 90 days.	Any person can be a permissive reporter.	P.R. Law Ann. tit. 8, § 450a. Any person who deliberately prevents another person from reporting, who deliberately furnishes false information, or who advises another person to do so is guilty of a misdemeanor and may be fined up to \$5000 or imprisoned up to 90 days. P.R. Law Ann. tit. 8, § 446. Information provided in good faith by any persons, officials, or institutions bound to mandatorily report are immune from civil or criminal action.
American Samoa	Am. Samoa Code Ann. § 45.2002(A). Anyone that has reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child has been abused or neglected, including any health-related employee, school employee, social worker or child care provider.	Am. Samoa Code Ann. § 45.2002(D). Mandatory reporters who fail to report commit a Class A felony and are liable for those damages proximately caused.	Am. Samoa Code Ann. § 45.2002(C). Any persons are urged and authorized to report known or suspected child abuse or neglect and circumstances and conditions which might reasonably result in child abuse or neglect to a the department or the agency.	Am. Samoa Code Ann. § 45.2012. Any person participating in good faith in the preparation of a report is immune from any liability, civil or criminal, that otherwise might result by reason of the reporting.

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US Virgin Islands	V.I. Code Ann. tit. 5, § 2533. School teachers or other school personnel, that suspect or observe a child has been abused.	V.I. Code Ann. tit. 5, § 2539. Mandatory reporters who knowingly fail to report shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not more than \$500, or imprisoned not more than a year, or both.	V.I. Code Ann. tit. 5, § 2533. Any person who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected or observes the child has been abused or neglected or observes the child being subjected to conditions or circumstances that would reasonably result in abuse or neglect may report it.	V.I. Code Ann. tit. 5, § 2537. Any person acting in good faith, by reporting abuse, is immune from any civil or criminal liability.