

**Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse & Neglect**  
**Background Information for Committee on Child Protection**  
**August 12, 2014**

33 V.S.A. § 4913 lists mandated reporters and requires that any such mandated reporter who has “reasonable cause to believe that any child has been abused or neglected” shall report within 24 hours to DCF. 33 V.S.A. § 4914.

There is a long list of mandated reporters, but they fall within certain groups. 33 V.S.A. § 4913(a):

- Medical (includes physicians, osteopaths, chiropractor, physician assistants, interns, nurses, medical examiners, emergency medical personnel, dentists, pharmacists, and mental health professionals).
- Child care worker or social worker.
- Educator (includes teachers, school superintendents, principals, librarians, guidance counselors, and any other individual who is employed by a school district or an approved or recognized independent school).
- Law enforcement (probation officers and police officers).
- Camp (includes owners, administrators, and counselors).
- Clergy. However, clergy are not required to report if the information is received by a member of clergy acting in his or her capacity as a spiritual advisor, intended to be confidential, intended to be an act of contrition, and confidential by religious law or doctrine.

Penalty: A person who violates § 4913(a) shall be fined not more than \$500.00, and a person who violates “with the intent to conceal abuse or neglect” shall be imprisoned not more six months and/or fined not more \$1,000.00. 33 V.S.A. § 4913(f).

Nonmandated reporters: Any other person who has reasonable cause to believe that any child has been abused or neglected “may report.” 33 V.S.A. § 4913(c).