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**DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**  
Family Services Division

To: Ann Pugh, Chair, House Human Services

From: Cindy Walcott, Deputy Commissioner, Family Services

Date: April 7, 2015

Subject: Issues Related to Mandated Reporting

The following information is from the Child Welfare Information Gateway.

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/manda.pdf#page=3&view=Standards for Making a Report>

**Volunteers as Mandated Reporters**

“Directors, employees, and volunteers at entities that provide organized activities for children, such as camps, day camps, youth centers, and recreation centers, are required to report in 12 States.”

“Ten States now have designated as mandatory reporters faculty, administrators, athletics staff, and other employees and volunteers at institutions of higher learning, including public and private colleges and universities and vocational and technical schools.”

California: Volunteers of public or private organizations whose duties require direct contact with and supervision of children are not mandated reporters but are encouraged to obtain training in the identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect and are further encouraged to report known or suspected instances of child abuse or neglect.

Louisiana: Organizational or youth activity providers, including administrators, employees, or volunteers of any day camp, summer camp, youth center, or youth recreation programs or any other organization that provides organized activities for children

Virginia: Athletic coaches, directors, or other persons age 18 or older employed by or volunteering with private sports organizations or teams

Washington: Persons who supervise employees or volunteers who train, educate, coach, or counsel children or have regular unsupervised access to children

West Virginia: Youth camp administrators, counselors, employees, coaches, or volunteers of entities that provide organized activities for children

## **Institutions**

Arkansas: An employer or supervisor of an employee identified as a mandated reporter shall not require an employee or a volunteer to obtain permission or notify any person, including an employee or a supervisor, before reporting child maltreatment to the Child Abuse Hotline.

## **All Citizens as Mandated Reporters**

“In approximately 18 States and Puerto Rico, any person who suspects child abuse or neglect is required to report. Of these 18 States, 16 States and Puerto Rico specify certain professionals who must report but also require all persons to report suspected abuse or neglect, regardless of profession.<sup>9</sup> New Jersey and Wyoming require all persons to report without specifying any professions.”

### Standards for Making a Report

“The circumstances under which a mandatory reporter must make a report vary from State to State. Typically, a report must be made when the reporter, in his or her official capacity, *suspects* or *has reason to believe* that a child has been abused or neglected. Another standard frequently used is in situations in which the reporter has knowledge of, or observes a child being subjected to, conditions that would reasonably result in harm to the child. Permissive reporters follow the same standards when electing to make a report.”

State	Knows or suspects	Reasonable Cause to Suspect	Reasonably believes/reason to believe	Reasonable cause to know or suspect	Reasonable cause to suspect or believe	Knows or in good faith suspects	Reasonable cause to believe	Reason to/ cause to suspect	Cause to believe	Reason to believe	Reasonable suspicion	Comes to suspect	Receives information that gives him or her reason to believe
AL	1												
AK		1											
AZ			1										
AR		1											
CA				1									
CO				1									
CT					1								
DE						1							
FL		1											
GA							1						
HI			1										
ID			1				1						
IL							1						
IN			1										
IA			1										
KS:								1					
KY							1						



State	Knows or suspects	Reasonable Cause to Suspect	Reasonably believes/reason to believe	Reasonable cause to know or suspect	Reasonable cause to suspect or believe	Knows or in good faith suspects	Reasonable cause to believe	Reason to/ cause to suspect	Cause to believe	Reason to believe	Reasonable suspicion	Comes to suspect	Receives information that gives him or her reason to believe
SD		1											
TN		1											
TX									1				
UT									1				
VT							1						
VA								1					
WA							1						
WV		1											
WI		1											
WY			1										
Total	2	15	6	3	2	1	10	4	3	4	1	0	1