



Office of the Child Advocate

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Director

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Mandated Reporter

Mandated Reporters - O.C.G.A. §19-7-5

The purpose of the mandated reporter law is to provide for the protection of children whose health and welfare are adversely affected and further threatened by the conduct of those responsible for their care and protection. It is intended that the mandatory reporting of such cases will cause the protective services of the state to be brought to bear on the situation in an effort to prevent further abuses, to protect and enhance the welfare of these children, and to preserve family life wherever possible.

The following persons having reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused shall report or cause reports of that abuse to be made as provided by law.

- (A) Physicians licensed to practice medicine, physician assistants, interns, or residents;
- (B) Hospital or medical personnel;
- (C) Dentists;
- (D) Licensed psychologists and persons participating in internships to obtain licensing pursuant to Chapter 39 of Title 43;
- (E) Podiatrists;
- (F) Registered professional nurses or licensed practical nurses licensed pursuant to Chapter 26 of Title 43 or nurse's aides;

An oral report shall be made immediately, but in no case later than 24 hours from the time there is reasonable cause to believe a child has been abused to a child welfare agency providing protective services or, in the absence of such agency, to an appropriate police authority or district attorney.

Reports can either be made orally by calling Central Intake at 1-855-GACHILD / 1-855-422-4453 or by faxing or emailing the DFCS Mandated Reporter Form.

Such reports shall contain the names and addresses of the child and the child's parents or caretakers, if known, the child's age, the nature and extent of the child's injuries, including any evidence of previous injuries, and any other information that the reporting person believes might be helpful in establishing the cause of the injuries and the identity of the perpetrator.

Photographs of the child's injuries to be used as documentation in support of allegations by hospital employees or volunteers, physicians, law enforcement personnel, school officials, or employees or volunteers of legally mandated public or private child protective agencies may be taken without the permission of the child's parent or guardian. Such photographs shall be made available as soon as possible to the chief welfare agency providing protective services and to the appropriate police authority.

Mandated Reporter Training

Mandated Reporter Training is available through The Governor's Office for Children and Families (GOCF) and Prevent Child Abuse of Georgia (PCAGA). Both GOCF and PCAGA has partnered with Care Solutions, Inc. to make this valuable online training available for free any time or day that you may want to use it. It is one-hour of your time to learn how to better recognize the indicators of abuse and neglect, understand your role in responsible reporting, and identify the groups of children that may be at a higher risk of being abused or neglected. Please click here to register: [Mandated Reporters: Critical Links in Protecting Children in Georgia](#)

Prevent Child Abuse of GA also offers in-person training. For in-person training, please contact Julia Neighbors at jneighbors@gsu.edu

[Prevent Child Abuse of Georgia](#)