

Mandated Reporter Quick Reference Guide

Who Are Mandated Reporters?

S.C. Code Ann. § 63-7-310 identifies the following professionals as mandated reporters:

- Physicians
- Nurses
- Dentists
- Optometrists
- Coroners
- Medical Examiners
- Employees of Coroners/Medical Examiners
- Any other professional in these fields:
 - Medical
 - Emergency Medical Services
 - Mental Health
 - Allied Health
- School Teachers
- Counselors
- Principals and Assistant Principals
- School Attendance Officers
- Childcare Workers in Childcare Centers or Foster Care Facilities
- Foster Parents
- Police and Law Enforcement Officers
- Juvenile Justice Workers
- Substance Abuse Treatment Staff
- Social Workers
- Public Assistance Workers
- Clergy, including Christian Science Practitioners & Religious Healers (subject to laws governing privileged communication)
- Clerical or Nonclerical Religious Counselors Who Charge for Services
- Undertakers
- Funeral Home Directors
- Employees of Funeral Homes
- Judges
- Volunteer Non-Attorney Guardians ad Litem
- Computer Technicians
- Persons Responsible for Processing Film

However, a person under age 18 is not required to be a mandated reporter.

(S.C. Code Ann. § 63-7-310(F))

When to Report?

Mandated reporters must make a report when information is received in their professional capacity that gives them reason to believe that a child has been or may be abused or neglected.

- Reporting to a supervisor or person in charge of an institution, school, facility, or agency does not relieve a mandated reporter of his individual duty to report.
- The duty to report is not superseded by an internal investigation of an institution, school, facility, or agency.

(S.C. Code Ann. § 63-7-310(A), (C))

Where to Report?

Reports may be made to the county department of social services or to a law enforcement agency in the county where the child resides or is found. (S.C. Code Ann. § 63-7-310(E)). DSS Hotline: 888-CARE4US (888-227-3487) - DSS.SC.GOV.

Failure to Report

A person who is required to report child abuse or neglect and who fails to do so is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than \$500 or imprisoned not more than six months, or both.

(S.C. Code Ann. § 63-7-410)

Additional Information

For a detailed overview of mandated reporter requirements and how to make a report, see the Mandated Reporter Guide found on the Children's Law Center website at <http://childlaw.sc.edu>.

To schedule a free training on Mandated Reporting, contact the Children's Law Center at 803-777-1646.