

Mandatory Reporters and Dual Reporting

Mandatory reporters are those professionals required by law to report suspected child abuse or neglect to either the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) or local law enforcement. Louisiana Children's Code Art. 603 defines any of the following as a mandatory reporter.



- Health Practitioner
- Mental Health/Social Service Practitioner
- Member of the Clergy
- Teaching or Child Care Provider
- Police Officers or Law Enforcement Officials
- Probation Officers
- Commercial Film & Photographic Print Processor
- Mediators
- Parenting Coordinators
- Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
- Court-Appointed Supervised Visit Monitor
- Organizational or Youth Activity Provider
- Coaches
- Foster Parents
- Group Home Staff Members
- DCFS and Office of Juvenile Justice employees with supervisory or disciplinary authority over children

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Depending on who perpetrated the alleged abuse/neglect and where the abuse/neglect occurred, a mandated reporter must report to DCFS and/or law enforcement. Dual Reporting refers to certain situations when a reporter must submit a report of suspected abuse/neglect to both.



When you are required to report to DCFS

- The alleged perpetrator is a/an
 - Parent or caretaker, including licensed residential facilities
 - Person who maintains an interpersonal dating or engagement relationship with the parent or caretaker
 - Person living in the same residence as the parent, caretaker, or child
 - Employee of an early learning center or registered family child day care home
- Child-on-child sexual abuse between children living in the same residence
- Child Human Trafficking
- Suspected abuse/neglect occurred in the child's residence by an undetermined individual



When you are required to report to Law Enforcement

- There is knowledge of a homicide, rape, or child sexual abuse of any kind
- A crime has been committed
- Suspected abuse or neglect of a student has occurred in any public, private, or charter school setting, including in a school building, on school grounds, in school vehicles or at any activities sponsored by:
 - Elementary
 - Secondary
 - Vocational-technical training
 - Special or
 - Postsecondary school
- Child-on-child sexual abuse by another child who does not live in the same residence



When to make a Dual Report



- The alleged abuse/neglect meets criteria in both categories listed above

How to make a report to DCFS



Call the Hotline 24/7
at 1-855-452-5437



Use the Mandated Reporter Portal
at dcfs.la/mandated-reporters

Reports of a child fatality, substance exposed newborn, child human trafficking, Safe Haven, sexual abuse, a life-threatening injury or other emergency requiring immediate assistance should be called into the Hotline. If you are unable to access the Hotline or the Mandatory Reporter Portal, you can visit a local Child Welfare office, and a DCFS staff member will assist you in making a report.

DEPARTMENT OF

Children &
Family Services

