



2003 Child Abuse and Neglect State Statutes Series Statutes-at-a-Glance Reporting Procedures

Standard Reporting Procedures

All 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Territories have enacted statutes specifying procedures that a mandatory reporter must follow when making a report of child abuse or neglect. Mandatory reporters are individuals who are required by law to report cases of suspected child abuse or neglect.¹ In most States, the statutes require mandated reporters to make a report immediately upon gaining their knowledge or suspicion of abusive or neglectful situations. In all jurisdictions, the initial report may be made orally to either the child protective services agency or to a law enforcement agency.

Agency Responsibility

In addition to procedures a mandatory reporter must follow, the statutes in most States also specify procedures for the response required by the agencies receiving the reports.

Typically, the department or public agency that provides child protective services has the responsibility to initiate an investigation of the allegations made in the report. In approximately² 8 States (Arkansas, Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, New Hampshire, Washington, and West Virginia), cases of physical or sexual abuse may be investigated by a law enforcement agency.

The designated agency usually is required to complete its investigation within a reasonably short period of time. Most States also require cross-reporting among professional entities. Typically, reports are shared among social services agencies, law enforcement agencies, and prosecutors' offices.³

Content of Reports

Most States also specify in statute the kind of information that must be included in the report of suspected abuse or neglect. Reports typically include the name and address of the child and the child's parents or other persons responsible for the child's care, the child's age, the nature and extent of the child's injuries, and any other information relevant to the investigation.



The Clearinghouses are services of the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

¹ For a listing of mandated reporters by State, see Department of Health and Human Services, *Statutes-at-a-Glance: Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect* (2003). (Available at <http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/general/legal/statutes/>.)

² The word *approximately* is used throughout the State Statutes Series to stress the fact that statutes are constantly revised and updated.

³ See Department of Health and Human Services, *Ready Reference: Reporting Laws Cross-Reporting Among Systems* (2003). (Available at <http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/general/legal/statutes/>.)

**Special
Reporting
Procedures**

Some States also specify reporting procedures in special situations such as the suspicious death of a child and cases of drug-exposed infants.

Specific reporting procedures to be followed in the event of a suspicious child death have been enacted in approximately⁴ 31 States, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands. Typically, these statutes instruct a mandatory reporter to report a suspected child death to a medical examiner or coroner.

In States that do not have specific reporting procedures for suspicious child deaths, standard child abuse reporting procedures apply.

Specific reporting procedures to be followed for drug-exposed infants have been enacted in approximately 12 States⁵ and the District of Columbia. In general, these statutes make drug exposure or a positive drug test alone the basis for reporting.

Standard reporting procedures apply in those States that statutorily define infant drug exposure as child abuse and neglect,⁶ but have no specific reporting procedures for drug-exposed infants.

The Statutes-at-a-Glance listings summarize specific sections of each State's code. While every attempt has been made to be as complete as possible, additional information on these topics may be found in other sections of a State's code as well as in agency regulations, case law, and informal practices and procedures. Readers interested in interpretation of specific statutory provisions within an individual jurisdiction should consult with professionals within the State familiar with the statutes' implementation.

Statutes-at-a-Glance publications also are available on the Clearinghouse Web site (<http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/general/legal/statutes/index.cfm>). Our online State Statutes database is searchable by State or Region.

⁴ See the State-by-State listing in this publication for those States that currently specify special procedures in their statutes.

⁵ The States that currently specify special procedures for drug-exposed infants include Arizona, California, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma, Utah, and Washington.

⁶ See the Ready Reference *Reporting Laws: Drug-Exposed Infants* (2003), available at <http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/general/legal/statutes/>.

Alabama**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: § 26-14-3(a)-(c)**

Mandated reporter required to immediately make an oral report; followed by a written report.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: §§ 26-14-3; 26-14-7**

Department of Human Resources shall investigate and provide protective services.

The department shall transmit school reports to the law enforcement agency; residential facility reports to the operating State agency.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 26-14-5**

- Name and location of child
- Names and addresses of parents or caretakers
- Character and extent of injuries
- Any evidence of previous injuries
- Any other information that might establish the cause of injuries
- Identity of person responsible for injuries

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Alaska**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: §§ 47.17.020; 47.17.023**

Mandated reporters shall immediately report harm to the department.

Producers of photos or other visual materials must report suspected sexual abuse to a law enforcement agency.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: §§ 47.17.020; 47.17.025; 47.17.030**

The department shall investigate and within 72 hours provide a written report of findings.

The department shall notify law enforcement if the harm was caused by a person not responsible for child's welfare or if a crime was committed.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 47.17.025**

- Names and addresses of child and child's parents
- Age and sex of the child
- Nature and extent of harm to the child from abuse
- Name, age, and address of the person believed to be responsible for the harm to the child
- Information that may be helpful in establishing the identity of the person responsible for the abuse

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

American Samoa**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: § 45.2002(a), (c)**

Mandated reporters shall immediately report knowledge or suspicions of abuse to the agency.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: §§ 45.2010; 45.2011**

The agency shall promptly investigate.

Written reports are prepared and sent to the department of public safety and the central registry.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 45.2010**

- Name, address, age, sex, religion, and race of child
- Name and address of person responsible for child
- Nature and extent of child's injuries; any evidence of previous abuse or neglect
- Names and addresses of persons responsible for abuse or neglect
- Family composition
- Name, address, and occupation of person making the report
- Action taken by reporting source
- Other information that might be helpful

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: § 45.2003**

A mandated reporter who know or suspects that a child has died as a result of abuse or neglect shall report immediately to the department of public safety.

The department shall investigate and report its findings to the Attorney General and the agency.

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in the statutes reviewed

Arizona**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: § 13-3620**

Any mandated reporter who has reasonable grounds to suspect abuse or neglect shall report immediately to a peace officer or child protective services:

- By telephone or in person
- Followed by a written report within 72 hours

Agency Responsibility**Statute: § 13-3620**

When reports are received by a peace officer, child protective services shall be notified.

When child protective services receives a report, a peace officer shall be notified.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 13-3620**

- Names and addresses of minor and minor's parents or person having custody
- Minor's age, nature and extent of injuries or neglect, any evidence of previous injuries or neglect
- Other information that might be helpful

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: § 13-3620**

A mandated reporter who has reasonable grounds to believe that a minor death was caused by other than accidental means shall report the information immediately to a peace officer or to child protective services.

Drug-Exposed Infants**Statute: § 13-3620**

A health care professional who believes that a newborn infant may be affected by the presence of alcohol or drugs shall immediately make a report to child protective services.

Arkansas**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: § 12-12-507**

A mandated reporter who has reasonable cause to suspect a child has been maltreated shall report immediately to the child abuse hotline.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: §§ 12-12-507; 509; 515**

The child abuse hotline will accept reports when the allegations constitute abuse as defined by § 12-12-503.

All investigations shall begin within 72 hours.

The department shall notify law enforcement within 24 hours if severe maltreatment is alleged.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 12-12-507**

Sufficient identifying information to identify and locate the child or family

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

California**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: Penal Code § 11166**

A mandated reporter who knows or reasonably suspects that a child has been a victim shall report immediately by telephone and prepare a written report within 36 hours.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: Penal Code § 11166**

Reports shall be transmitted to the agency, law enforcement agency, and district attorney.

Reports made due to parent's inability to care for child due to substance abuse shall be reported to a county welfare or probation office.

Content of Reports**Statute: Penal Code § 11167**

- Name, business address, and telephone number of the mandated reporter
- Child's name, address, present location, school, grade, and class
- Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of child's parents or guardians
- Information that gave rise to suspicion of abuse and source of that information
- Name, address, telephone number, and other relevant information about person who may have abused the child

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: Penal Code §§ 11166; 11166.1**

The agency shall be notified even if the child has died, regardless of whether or not abuse was a contributing factor to the death.

The agency shall notify within 24 hours the licensing office with jurisdiction over a facility when a child has died while living at or enrolled in that facility.

Drug-Exposed Infants**Statute: Penal Code § 11165.13**

Any indication of maternal substance abuse shall lead to an assessment of the needs of the mother and child. If other factors indicate a risk to the child, a report shall be made.

Colorado**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: § 19-3-304**

A mandated reporter who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been abused shall report immediately to the department or a law enforcement agency.

A film processor shall report sexual abuse to a law enforcement agency.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: §§ 19-3-307; 19-3-308**

The county department shall respond immediately to reports of intrafamilial abuse.

An investigation shall be conducted in conjunction with the local law enforcement agency.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 19-3-307**

- Name, address, age, sex, and race of child
- Name and address of the person responsible for the suspected abuse
- Nature and extent of child's injuries; evidence of previous cases of abuse
- Family composition
- Source of the report; name, address, and occupation of the reporting source
- Any action taken by the reporting source
- Other information that might be helpful

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: § 19-3-305**

A mandated reporter who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has died as a result of abuse or neglect shall report that fact immediately to a local law enforcement agency and the appropriate medical examiner.

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Connecticut**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: §§ 17a-101a; 101b; 101c**

A mandated reporter who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been abused shall make an oral report not later than 12 hours after the reporter has cause to suspect.

Within 48 hours of the oral report, the reporter shall submit a written report.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: § 17a-101b**

The Commissioner of Children and Families shall notify law enforcement within 12 hours of receiving a report of serious physical abuse or sexual abuse.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 17a-101d**

- Names and addresses of the child and his parents or other person responsible for his care
- Age and gender of child
- Nature and extent of child's injuries
- Approximate date and time of injuries
- Information about previous maltreatment to child or child's siblings
- Circumstances in which maltreatment came to be known to reporter
- Name of person suspected to be responsible for the maltreatment
- Whatever action was taken to assist the child

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: § 17a-101b**

If the Commissioner receives a report that a child has died, the Commissioner shall within 12 hours of receipt of the report notify the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Delaware**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: Tit. 16, § 904**

Any report shall be made to the Division of Child Protective Services.

An immediate oral report shall be made by telephone or otherwise.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: Tit. 16, §§ 905; 906**

The Division will maintain a 24-hour toll-free telephone line for accepting reports.

The Division will contact the law enforcement agency, which will assist with the investigation.

Content of Reports**Statute: Tit. 16, §§ 904; 906**

Contents of a report shall be in accordance with rules and regulations of the Division.

The Division will contact the reporter to ensure that full information has been received and to obtain additional information.

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

District of Columbia**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: § 4-1321.02**

A mandated reporter who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect shall immediately report to Child Protective Services or the Police Department.

Agency Responsibility

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Content of Reports**Statute: § 4-1321.03**

- Name, age, sex, and address of the child, the child's siblings, and parents or other persons responsible for child's care
- Nature and extent of the abuse or neglect and any previous abuse or neglect
- Any other information that might be helpful
- If the source of the report is a mandated reporter, the identity and occupation of the source, how to contact, and any action taken by the source

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Drug-Exposed Infants**Statute: § 4-1321.02(d)**

A licensed health professional or law enforcement officer shall report immediately in writing to Child Protective Services when there is reasonable cause to believe that a child is abused due to exposure to drug-related activity.

Florida**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: § 39.201**

Each report shall be made immediately to the central abuse hotline.

Mandated reporters are required to provide their names to hotline staff.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: § 39.201**

The department shall be capable of receiving reports 24 hours a day.

In cases of immediate danger to the child, an investigation shall commence immediately.

In all other cases, an investigation must be commenced within 24 hours.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 39.201**

- Composition of the family or household
- Name, address, date of birth, social security number, sex, and race of each child named in the report
- Any sibling or other children in the same household or being cared for by the same adults
- The parents, legal guardians, or caregivers
- Any other adults in the same household

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: § 39.201**

Any person required to report or investigate cases of suspected abuse who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has died as a result of abuse shall report his or her suspicion to the medical examiner.

The medical examiner shall reports any findings to law enforcement, the appropriate State attorney and the department.

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Georgia**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: §§ 19-7-5; 16-12-100**

A mandated reporter who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused shall make an oral report as soon as possible, followed by a written report, if requested.

A photo processor who has cause to believe that the visual matter depicts a minor engaged in sexual activity shall report to law enforcement.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: § 19-7-5**

If the child welfare agency has reasonable cause to believe that a report is true or contains an allegation of child abuse, then the agency shall immediately notify the appropriate police authority or district attorney.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 19-7-5**

- Names and addresses of the child and child's parents or caretakers
- Child's age, if known
- Nature and extent of child's injuries; evidence of any previous injuries
- Any other information that might be helpful

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Guam**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility**

Statute: Tit. 19, § 13203(a)

Mandated reporters shall report cases of suspected abuse to child protective services or the police immediately by telephone and followed up in writing within 48 hours.

Agency Responsibility

Statute: Tit. 19, § 13203(b)

Child protective services shall notify the police and attorney general of reports of child abuse.

The police shall notify child protective services of reports of neglect.

Content of Reports

Statute: Tit. 19, § 13203(c)

- Name of person making the report
- Name, age, sex, and present location of the child
- Nature and extent of injury
- Name of person responsible for suspected abuse
- Family composition
- Actions taken by the reporting source
- Any other information the agency may require

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths**

Statute: Tit. 19, § 13205

Any mandated reporter who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has died as a result of abuse shall report that fact to the medical examiner.

The medical examiner shall report any findings to the police department, attorney general's office, and child protective services.

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Hawaii**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility**

Statute: § 350-1.1

A mandated reporter who has reason to believe that child abuse or neglect has occurred shall immediately report the matter orally to the department or the police department.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: § 350-2**

Upon receiving a report, the department shall initiate an investigation.

The department shall inform the police department of all reports received.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 350-1.1**

- Name and address of child and the child's parents or other persons responsible for the child's care
- Child's age
- Nature and extent of child's injuries
- Any other information that might be helpful

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Idaho**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: § 16-1619**

A mandated reporter who has reason to believe that a child has been abused shall report within 24 hours to a law enforcement agency or the department.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: § 16-1619**

The department shall be informed by the law enforcement agency of any report made directly to it.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 16-1619**

The conditions and circumstances that led to the report

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Illinois**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: 325 ILCS 5/4; 5/7**

A mandated reporter having reasonable cause to believe a child may be abused or neglected shall report:

- Immediately by telephone to the central register or department
- Confirmed in writing to the department within 48 hours

Agency Responsibility**Statute: 325 ILCS 5/7; 5/7.6**

The department shall maintain a statewide, toll-free telephone line.

Reports made to the central register shall be transmitted to child protective services.

The department shall orally notify within 24 hours law enforcement and the State's attorney in cases of death or serious injury to a child.

Content of Reports**Statute: 325 ILCS 5/7; 5/9**

- Names and addresses of child and parents or other responsible persons
- Child's age, sex, and race
- Nature and extent of child's injuries
- Names of persons apparently responsible for the abuse or neglect
- Name, occupation, and any action taken by reporting source, and contact information
- Any other information that might be helpful

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: 325 ILCS 5/4.1**

A mandated reporter who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has died as a result of abuse shall report to the appropriate medical examiner.

Drug-Exposed Infants**Statute: 325 ILCS 5/7.3b**

All mandated reporters may refer to the department any pregnant person who is addicted as defined in the Alcoholism and Other Drug Abuse and Dependency Act.

Indiana**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: §§ 31-33-5-1 to 31-33-5-4**

A mandated reported who has reason to believe that a child is a victim of abuse or neglect shall make an oral report as required by law.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: §§ 31-33-7-4; 31-33-7-5**

The local child protective service shall make a written report within 48 hours of receipt of the oral report. A copy shall be provided to:

- The appropriate law enforcement agency
- The prosecuting attorney and
- In a case involving death, the coroner

Content of Reports**Statute: § 31-33-7-4(b)**

- Names and addresses of the child, parents, guardian, custodian, or other responsible person
- Child's sex and age
- Nature and extent of injuries; any evidence of prior injury
- Name of person allegedly responsible for the abuse
- Source of the report
- Actions taken by the reporting source
- Any other information that might be helpful

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: § 31-33-7-5**

A copy of the written report of the local child protection service shall immediately be made available to the coroner for the coroner's consideration in a case involving death.

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Iowa**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: §§ 232.69(1); 232.70**

A mandated reporter shall make an oral report within 24 hours; a written report shall be made to the department within 48 hours after the oral report.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: §232.70**

Upon receipt of an oral report, the department shall immediately determine whether the report constitutes an allegation of abuse and notify the county attorney.

If the report alleges a sexual offense, the department shall refer the report to the law enforcement agency.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 232.70**

- Names and home addresses of child, child's parent, and other responsible persons
- Child's present location if not at home
- Child's age
- Nature and extent of injuries; evidence of any prior injury
- Name, age, condition of other children in the house
- Any other information that might be helpful
- Name and address of person making the report

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Drug-Exposed Infants**Statute: § 232.77(2)**

If a health practitioner discovers in a child symptoms of exposure to illegal drugs, the health practitioner may perform a medically relevant test. Any positive results shall be reported to the department.

Kansas**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: § 38-1522**

A mandated reporter who has reason to suspect that a child has been injured due to abuse shall make an oral report, followed by a written report if requested.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: § 38-1522**

Reports shall be made to the department. When the department is not open for business, reports shall be made to a law enforcement agency.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 38-1522**

- Names and addresses of child, child's parents, and other responsible persons
- Child's age
- Nature and extent of injuries; any evidence of prior injuries
- Any other information that might be helpful

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: §§ 38-1522; 22a-242**

A mandated reporter who knows of the death of a child shall notify the coroner.

When a child dies, a law enforcement officer, health care provider, or any other person having knowledge of the death shall notify the coroner.

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Kentucky**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: § 620.030**

Any person who knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child is abused shall immediately make an oral or written report to the Cabinet, a law enforcement agency, or a county attorney.

A mandated reporter shall file a written report within 48 hours of the original report, if requested.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: § 620.040**

The Cabinet immediately shall make a determination of risk of harm and safety of the child.

Within 72 hours, the Cabinet shall make a written report to the county attorney and local law enforcement agency concerning action taken on the investigation.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 620.030**

- Names and addresses of the child and parents or other persons exercising control
- Child's age
- Nature and extent of alleged abuse to the child and any siblings
- Name and address of person allegedly responsible for the abuse
- Any other information that might be helpful

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Drug-Exposed Infants**Statute: § 214.160**

Any physician may administer to each newborn infant a toxicology test to determine whether there is evidence of prenatal exposure to alcohol or a controlled substance. Any positive finding shall be evaluated to determine whether investigation by the Cabinet for Health Services is necessary.

Louisiana**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: Ch. C. art. 610**

Reports of abuse where the abuser is believed to be a caretaker shall be made immediately to the local child protection unit.

Reports of abuse where the abuser is believed to be someone other than a caretaker shall be made immediately to a law enforcement agency.

Mandated reporters must file a written report within 5 days of the initial oral report.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: Ch. C. art. 610**

All reports received by law enforcement that involve a caretaker shall be referred to a local child protection unit.

All reports received by the child protection unit that involve someone other than a caretaker shall be referred to a local law enforcement agency.

Content of Reports**Statute: Ch. C. art. 610**

- Name, address, age, sex, and race of child
- Nature, extent, and cause of child's injuries or condition; any previous known or suspected abuse
- Names and addresses of child's parents or caretakers, other members of household
- Name and address of the reporter
- Account of how child came to reporter's attention; any explanation for child's condition
- Any other information that might be helpful

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: Ch. C. art. 610(A), (E)**

Reports of abuse or neglect that were a contributing factor in a child's death, where the abuser is believed to be a caretaker, shall be made to the local child protection unit.

A local child protection unit shall report all cases of child death that involve a suspicion of abuse to the local or State law enforcement agency, the office of the district attorney, and the coroner.

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Maine**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: Tit. 22, §§ 4011-A; 4012**

A mandated reporter who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been abused shall immediately report to the department.

A mandated reporter who suspects that a child has been abused by someone other than a caretaker shall report to the district attorney's office.

An oral report shall be followed by a written report within 48 hours if requested.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: Tit. 22, § 4011-A**

When a report is made by a mental health professional, the department will consult with that professional to try to reach an agreement on how to pursue the report.

The intent is to encourage offenders to seek treatment at the same time providing any necessary protection and treatment for the child and other family members.

Content of Reports**Statute: Tit. 22, § 4012**

- Name and address of the child and persons responsible for his care
- Child's age and sex
- Nature and extent of abuse; description of injuries and explanation given for them
- Description of sexual abuse or exploitation
- Family composition and evidence of prior abuse of child or any siblings
- Source of report; person making the report, his occupation, and where he can be reached
- Any action taken by the reporter
- Any other information that might be helpful

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: Tit. 22, § 4013**

A mandated reporter who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has died as a result of abuse shall report that fact to a law enforcement officer, medical examiner, or the office of the chief medical examiner.

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Maryland**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: Fam. Law § 5-704**

A mandated reporter who has reason to believe that a child has been subjected to:

- Abuse, shall notify the local department or a law enforcement agency
- Neglect, shall notify the local department

Agency Responsibility**Statute: Fam. Law § 5-704**

An agency to which an oral report is made shall immediately notify the other agency.

Content of Reports**Statute: Fam. Law § 5-704**

- Name, age, and home address of the child
- Name and home address of child's parent or other responsible person
- Whereabouts of child
- Nature and extent of abuse; evidence of prior abuse
- Any other information that might be helpful

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Massachusetts**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: Ch. 119, § 51A**

A mandated reporter who has reasonable cause to believe that a child is suffering from abuse shall immediately make an oral report, to be followed by a written report within 48 hours.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: Ch. 119, § 51B**

The department shall start an investigation within 2 hours of initial contact and complete the investigation within 24 hours if the child is believed to be in immediate danger.

The department shall notify the district attorney if there is reasonable cause to believe that the child has been sexually assaulted or has suffered serious injury.

Content of Reports**Statute: Ch. 119, § 51A**

- Names and addresses of child, his parents, or other responsible person
- Child's age and sex
- Nature and extent of injuries; evidence of prior injury
- Circumstances under which reporter became aware of child's condition
- Name of reporter and any action taken
- Any other information that might be helpful

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: Ch. 119, § 51A**

A mandated reporter who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has died as a result of abuse shall report such death to the department, the district attorney of the county in which the death occurred, and to the medical examiner.

Drug-Exposed Infants**Statute: Ch. 119, § 51A**

A mandated reporter who has reasonable cause to believe that a child is physically dependent on an addictive drug at birth shall immediately make an oral report to the department, to be followed by a written report within 48 hours.

Michigan**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: § 722.623(1)**

A mandated reporter who has reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or neglect shall immediately make an oral report to the department, to be followed by a written report within 72 hours.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: § 722.623(3)-(7)**

If a report or investigation indicates a crime has occurred, or the abuse was committed by someone other than a caretaker, the department shall notify the law enforcement agency.

If a law enforcement agency receives a report and finds that abuse was committed by a caretaker, it shall notify the department.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 722.623(2)**

- Name, age of the child; a description of the abuse or neglect
- If possible, the names and addresses of the child's parents, guardian, or persons with whom the child resides
- Other information available to the reporter that might establish the cause of the abuse

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: § 722.628b**

If a central registry case involves a child's death, the department shall refer the case to the prosecuting attorney for the county in which the child is located.

Drug-Exposed Infants**Statute: § 722.623a**

A mandated reporter who knows, or from the child's symptoms has reasonable cause to suspect, that a newborn infant has any amount of alcohol or a controlled substance in his body, shall report to the department in the same manner as other reports.

Minnesota**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: § 626.556, Subd. 3**

A mandated reporter who knows or has reason to believe that a child is being abused shall immediately make an oral report to the local welfare agency, police department, or county sheriff.

The oral report shall be followed by a written report within 72 hours.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: § 626.556, Subd. 3, 7, 10**

If the report alleges abuse by caretaker, the local welfare agency shall immediately conduct an assessment.

If the report alleges a violation of a criminal statute, the local welfare agency and law enforcement agency shall coordinate their respective investigations.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 626.556, Subd. 7**

Any report shall be of sufficient content to identify:

- The child
- Any person believed to be responsible for the abuse or neglect, if known
- The nature and extent of the abuse or neglect
- The name and address of the reporter

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: § 626.556, Subd. 9**

When a mandated reporter knows or has reason to believe that a child has died as a result of abuse, the reporter shall immediately report that information to the medical examiner or coroner, instead of to the local welfare agency, police department, or county sheriff.

Drug-Exposed Infants**Statute: §§ 626.5561; 626.5562**

A mandated reporter shall immediately report to the local welfare agency when there is reason to believe that a pregnant woman has used a controlled substance. An oral report shall be followed by a written report in 72 hours.

A physician shall administer a toxicology test to a woman within 8 hours of delivery and to each newborn infant to determine if there is evidence of use of a controlled substance. Results shall be reported to the Department of Health.

Mississippi**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: § 43-21-353**

A mandated reporter who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is abused shall immediately make an oral report to the department, to be followed as soon as possible by a written report.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: § 43-21-353**

The department shall immediately make a referral to the youth court intake unit. If the child has been sexually abused or seriously injured, the law enforcement agency shall be notified.

The law enforcement agency and the department shall investigate immediately and file a preliminary report within 24 hours with the appropriate prosecutor's office.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 43-21-353**

- Names and addresses of the child, his parents, other responsible persons
- The child's age
- Nature and extent of injuries; evidence of prior injuries
- Any other information that might be helpful

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Missouri**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: § 210.115**

When a mandated reporter has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been or may be subjected to abuse, that person shall immediately cause a report to be made to the division of family services.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: § 210.145**

The local office of the division shall commence an investigation or assessment within 24 hours.

The local office shall contact the appropriate law enforcement agency immediately upon receipt of the report if a violation of a criminal statute is suspected.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 210.130**

- Names and addresses of the child, his parents, or other responsible persons
- The child's age, sex, and race
- Nature and extent of injuries; evidence of prior injuries
- Name, age, and address of person responsible for the injuries, if known
- Family composition
- Source of the report
- Name, address, and occupation of reporter
- Actions taken by the reporter
- Any other information that might be helpful

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: § 210.115**

Any mandated reporter who has probable cause to suspect that a child has died shall report that fact to the medical examiner or coroner.

Drug-Exposed Infants**Statute: § 191.737**

Any physician or health care provider may refer to the Department of Health families in which children may have exposed to a controlled substance or alcohol, as evidenced by:

- Medical documentation of signs and symptoms consistent with exposure at birth
- Results of a confirmed toxicology test
- A written assessment made by a physician that documents the child as being at risk of abuse or neglect

Montana**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: § 41-3-201**

When a mandated reporter knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is abused, he shall promptly make a report to the department.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: § 41-3-202**

Upon receipt of a report, the department shall promptly assess the information and determine the level of response required.

An initial investigation may be conducted when an anonymous report is received, but the investigation must develop independent, corroborative information within 48 hours in order to continue.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 41-3-201**

- Names and addresses of the child, parents, or other responsible persons
- Nature and extent of injuries; evidence of prior injuries
- Any other information that might be helpful
- The facts that led the reporter to believe that the child has suffered injury or willful neglect

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: § 41-3-206**

A mandated reporter who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has died as a result of abuse shall report that suspicion to the appropriate medical examiner or law enforcement officer.

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Nebraska**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: § 28-711**

When a mandated reporter has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse, he shall report to the proper law enforcement agency or the department on the toll-free number.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: §§ 28-711; 28-713**

The department shall maintain the toll-free number. By the next working day, a written report shall be made to the law enforcement agency.

It is the duty of the law enforcement agency to investigate the report and to take immediate steps to protect the child.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 28-711**

- Address and age of the child
- Address of person having custody of the child
- Nature and extent of abuse or conditions or circumstances which would reasonably result in abuse or neglect
- Any evidence of previous abuse or neglect
- Any other information that might be helpful

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Nevada**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: § 432B.220(1)-(2), (4)**

A mandated reporter who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused shall report not later than 24 hours to an agency that provides child welfare services or a law enforcement agency.

If the abuse involves an act by a person working in a facility that provides care for a child outside of his home, the report shall be made to a law enforcement agency.

If the abuse involves an act of an agency, the investigation must be made by agency other than the one alleged to have committed the act.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: §§ 432B.200; 432B.260**

The Division of Child and Family Services shall maintain a toll-free number to receive reports.

An agency that provides child welfare services or law enforcement agency shall immediately initiate an investigation if the child is less than 5 years of age, at high risk of serious harm, or living in a household where another child has died.

An agency that provides child welfare services shall initiate an investigation within 3 days if the child is not in immediate danger, the abuse or neglect could be eliminated if the family received social or health services, or the alleged abuse was the result of appropriate discipline.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 432B.230**

- Name, address, age, and sex of child
- Name and address of child's parents or other person responsible for his care
- Nature and extent of the abuse; any evidence of prior abuse or abuse of child's siblings
- Name, address, and relationship, if known, of the person alleged to have committed the abuse
- Any other information that might be helpful

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: § 432B.220(5)**

A mandated reporter who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has died as a result of abuse shall as soon as reasonably practicable report the belief to the appropriate medical examiner or coroner.

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

New Hampshire**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: § 169-C:30**

An oral report shall be made immediately to the department by telephone or otherwise, and followed within 48 hours by a written report, if so requested.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: §§ 169-C:34; 169-C:38**

If it appears that a child is in imminent danger, the department shall commence an investigation immediately. In all other cases, the investigation shall be commenced within 72 hours.

The department shall immediately refer all cases in which a child has been sexually molested or intentionally injured so as to cause serious bodily injury to the local law enforcement agency.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 169-C:30**

- Name and address of the child
- Person responsible for the child's welfare
- Nature and extent of the child's injuries; any evidence of prior injury
- Identity of person suspected of being responsible for the abuse or neglect
- Any other information that might be helpful

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

New Jersey**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: § 9:6-8.10**

Any person who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse shall report the same to the Division of Youth and Family Services.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: §§ 9:6-8.10a; 9:6-8.11**

For incidents determined to be substantiated, the division shall forward to the police the identity of persons alleged to have committed the abuse.

Upon receipt of the report, the division shall immediately take action to insure the safety of the child.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 9:6-8.10**

- Names and addresses of the child and his parent, guardian, or other person having custody
- If known, the child's age
- Nature and possible extent of injuries; any evidence of prior injury
- Any other information that might be helpful

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

New Mexico**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: § 32A-4-3(A)-(D)**

A mandated reporter who has reasonable suspicion that a child is abused shall report the matter immediately to:

- A local law enforcement agency
- The department
- The tribal law enforcement or social services agency for an Indian child

Agency Responsibility**Statute: § 32A-4-3(A)-(D)**

A law enforcement agency shall notify the department of reports received; the department shall notify the law enforcement agency.

The recipient of the report shall take immediate steps to ensure prompt investigation of the report and ensure the health and safety of the child.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 32A-4-3(A)-(D)**

- Names and addresses of the child and child's parents, guardian, or custodian
- The child's age
- Nature and extent of child's injuries; any evidence of prior injury
- Identity of person responsible for the injuries
- Any other information that might be helpful

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

New York**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility**

Statute: Soc. Serv. Law §§ 413(1); 415

Mandated reporters shall immediately make an oral report to the statewide central register when they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been abused by a person responsible for that child's care. Oral reports shall be followed by written reports within 48 hours.

Agency Responsibility

Statute: Soc. Serv. Law § 415

In those localities in which oral reports are made to a local child protective service, the local child protective service shall immediately make an oral report to the statewide central register.

The statewide central register shall transmit the report to the agency responsible for investigating the report in accordance with applicable law.

Content of Reports

Statute: Soc. Serv. Law § 415

- Names and addresses of the child, the child's parents, or other responsible person
- Child's age, sex, and race
- Nature and extent of any injuries; evidence of any prior injury
- Family composition, including any siblings
- Name of person alleged responsible for the abuse
- Source of the report; person making the report
- Actions taken by the reporting source
- Any other information that may be helpful or required by regulation

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths**

Statute: Soc. Serv. Law § 418

Any mandated reporter, including employees of the local child protective service agency or an official of the agency responsible for investigation of a report, who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has died as a result of abuse shall report that fact to the appropriate medical examiner or coroner.

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

North Carolina**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: § 7B-301**

A mandated reporter who has cause to believe that a child is abused shall report the case to the department. The report made be made orally by telephone or in writing.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: §§ 7B-302; 7B-307**

When a report alleges abuse, the department shall immediately, but no later than within 24 hours, initiate an investigation.

When the report alleges neglect or dependency, the investigation shall commence within 72 hours.

If the investigation finds that a child may have been abused, or that there was a violation of a criminal statute, the department shall notify the district attorney within 48 hours.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 7B-301**

- Name and address of the child, and the child's parent, guardian, or caretaker
- Age of the child
- Names and ages of other children in the home
- Present whereabouts of the child
- Nature and extent of any injury or condition
- Any other information that might be helpful

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: §§ 7B-301; 7B-302**

A mandated reporter who has cause to believe that a child has died as a result of maltreatment shall report the case to the department.

The department shall immediately ascertain if other children are in the home and in need of protective services.

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

North Dakota**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: § 50-25.1-04**

All mandated reporters shall immediately report cases of known or suspected abuse to the department. Oral reports must be followed by written reports within 48 hours.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: § 50-25.1-05**

The department shall immediately initiate an assessment of the child's circumstances.

If the report alleges a violation of a criminal statute, the department and an appropriate law enforcement agency shall coordinate an investigation.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 50-25.1-04**

A requested written report must include information specifically sought by the department if the reporter possesses or has reasonable access to the information.

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Northern Mariana Islands**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: Tit. 6, § 5313(a)**

Any mandated reporter who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect a child is abused shall report promptly to the department of public safety. This notification shall be within 24 hours.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: Tit. 6, § 5313(c)**

The department of public safety shall promptly, within 24 hours, notify the office of attorney general and division of youth services of all reported cases.

Content of Reports**Statute: Tit. 6, § 5313(a)**

The report shall contain a statement of the time, date, circumstances, and information that gave rise to the reporter's belief that abuse or neglect has or will occur.

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: Tit. 6, § 5313(c)**

A mandated reporter who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has died as a result of abuse shall report that fact to the medical examiner.

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Ohio**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: § 2151.421**

A mandated reporter who knows or suspects that a child has suffered or faces a threat of suffering abuse shall immediately make a report to the county public children services agency or a peace officer.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: § 2151.421**

The public children services agency shall investigate within 24 hours and report each case to a central registry.

The agency shall submit a written report of its findings to the law enforcement agency and make any recommendations it considers necessary to the county prosecutor.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 2151.421**

- Names and addresses of the child, child's parents, or persons having custody
- Child's age and nature and extent of any injuries; evidence of any prior injury
- Any other information that might be helpful

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: § 2151.421(G)(4)**

After a report has been made, and if for any reason the child dies before reaching age 18, the public children services agency or peace officer to which the report was made shall, upon request, submit a summary of the report to the child fatality review board.

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Oklahoma**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: Tit. 10, §§ 7103; 7104**

A mandated reporter who has reason to believe that a child is a victim of abuse shall report the matter promptly to the department.

A health professional attending to a victim of what appears to be criminally injurious conduct, including physical or sexual abuse, shall report the matter promptly to the nearest law enforcement agency.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: Tit. 10, § 7106**

A county office of the department shall promptly respond to a report by initiating an investigation or an assessment of the family in accordance with guidelines established by the department.

The primary purpose of the investigation or assessment shall be the protection of the child.

Content of Reports**Statute: Tit. 10, § 7103**

- Names and addresses of the child, the parents, or persons responsible for the child
- Child's age
- Nature and extent of abuse; any evidence of prior injury
- If the child has tested positive for alcohol or a controlled dangerous substance
- Any other information that might be helpful

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Drug-Exposed Infants**Statute: Tit. 10, § 7103**

Every health care professional attending the birth of a child who tests positive for alcohol or a controlled dangerous substance shall report the matter promptly to the department of human services.

Oregon**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: § 419B.015**

A person making a report shall report orally to:

- The local office of the department of human services or a designee of the department
- A law enforcement agency in the county where the person is located

Agency Responsibility**Statute: § 419B.015**

When a report is received by the department, it shall immediately notify the law enforcement agency.

When a report is received by a law enforcement agency, it shall immediately notify the department.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 419B.015**

- Names and addresses of the child, the parents, or persons responsible for the child
- Child's age
- Nature and extent of abuse; any evidence or previous abuse
- The explanation given for the abuse
- Any other information that might be helpful

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Pennsylvania**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: 23 Pa. §§ 6311; 6313**

A mandated reporter who has reasonable cause to believe that a child is an abused child shall make a report to the department.

An oral report shall be made immediately to be followed by a written report within 48 hours.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: 23 Pa. § 6313**

The department or county agency shall see to the immediate safety of the child.

The department shall make a determination of whether the report is founded, unfounded, or indicated.

Content of Reports**Statute: 23 Pa. § 6313**

- Names and addresses of the child, parents, or other responsible persons
- Where the suspected abuse occurred
- Age and sex of subjects of the report
- Nature and extent of abuse; any evidence of prior abuse to the child or siblings
- Name and relationship or person responsible for the suspected abuse
- Family composition
- Source of the report
- Person making the report and where to be reached
- Actions taken by the source
- Any other information that might be helpful

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: 23 Pa. § 6317**

A mandated reporter who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has died as a result of abuse shall report that suspicion to the appropriate coroner.

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Puerto Rico**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: Tit. 8, § 442a**

A person may report suspected abuse to the hotline for cases, the department or the police.

Mandated reporters must complete a form furnished by the department within 48 hours after the oral report.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: Tit. 8, § 442b**

The department shall draft regulations to establish the way referrals must be made.

Content of Reports**Statute: Tit. 8, § 442f**

Reports shall contain, but not be limited to, all information in the written report confirming the abuse.

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: Tit. 8, § 442e**

Mandated reporters who have knowledge of or suspect that a minor has died as a result of abuse shall report that fact to the police and the panel for the review of deaths of minors.

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Rhode Island**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: §§ 40-11-3; 40-11-6**

Any person who has reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child has been abused shall report the information within 24 hours to the department.

A physician who suspects that a child is abused or determines that a child is suffering from any sexually transmitted disease shall report to the department.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: §§ 40-11-3; 7; 9**

The department shall operate a toll-free number for the receipt of reports.

If the department finds after an investigation that a crime has been committed, it shall forward the information to the law enforcement agency.

The law enforcement agency shall investigate further and report results to department and the attorney general.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 40-11-6**

A written report shall follow the oral report. The written report will explain the extent and nature of the abuse the child is alleged to have suffered.

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: § 40-11-3.1**

A mandated reporter who suspects that a child has died as a result of abuse shall immediately report the information to the department, which will investigate immediately.

Upon receipt of the report, the department will immediately transfer the information to the law enforcement agency and to the office of the medical examiner.

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

South Carolina**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: § 20-7-510**

A mandated reporter shall report to the department or a law enforcement agency when the reporter has reason to believe that a child's health has been adversely affected by abuse or neglect.

The report is made to a law enforcement agency when abuse is committed by someone other than a person responsible for the child's welfare.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: § 20-7-510**

When a report is made to a law enforcement agency, the department shall be notified.

Criminal investigations are referred to the law enforcement agency.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 20-7-510**

Reports must include the identity of the reporter, which is kept confidential.

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: § 20-7-520**

A mandated reporter who has reason to believe that a child has died as a result of abuse or neglect shall report the information to the medical examiner or coroner.

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

South Dakota**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: § 26-8A-8**

Reports required from mandated reporters shall be made immediately by telephone to the State's attorney, the department, or a law enforcement agency.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: § 26-8A-8**

The State's attorney or law enforcement agency receiving the report shall immediately notify the department.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 26-8A-10**

- Child's name, address, date, and place of birth
- Name and address of child's parents, guardian, or custodian
- Date of the report
- Suspected or proven instances of abuse

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: § 26-8A-4**

A person who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has died as a result of abuse shall report that information to the medical examiner or coroner.

Drug-Exposed InfantsNot addressed in statutes reviewed

Tennessee**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: §§ 37-1-403; 37-1-605**

Any person who knows of harm to a child that reasonably appears to have been caused by abuse, or that a child has been sexually abused, shall report such knowledge to a judge, the department, the sheriff, or the chief law enforcement official.

Cases of sexually transmitted diseases shall be reported in writing to the department of health.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: §§ 37-1-403; 37-1-605**

Reports shall immediately be referred to the child protective team, which will investigate the report.

If sexual abuse is confirmed, the department of health will report the case to the department of children's services, which will be responsible for any follow-up.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 37-1-403**

- Name, address, and age of child
- Name and address of person responsible for the care of the child
- The facts requiring the report
- Any other pertinent information

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: §§ 37-1-403; 37-1-605**

A mandated reporter who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has died as a result of abuse or sexual abuse shall report such suspicion to the medical examiner.

Drug-Exposed InfantsNot addressed in statutes reviewed

Texas**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: Fam. Code §§ 261.101; 261.103**

A person who has cause to believe that a child has been abused immediately shall make a report.

A professional who has cause to believe that a child has been abused shall make a report no later than 48 hours after the professional first suspects the abuse.

The report shall be made to a law enforcement agency, the department, the agency that operates the facility where the abuse occurred, or to the agency designated to be responsible for the protection of children.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: Fam. Code § 261.105**

All reports made to a law enforcement agency shall be referred immediately to the department.

The department shall immediately notify the law enforcement agency.

If the department initiates an investigation and determines that the abuse does not involve a person responsible for the child, the department shall refer the report to a law enforcement agency for further investigation.

Content of Reports**Statute: Fam. Code § 261.104**

- Name and address of the child
- Name and address of the person responsible for the care, custody, or welfare of the child
- Any other pertinent information concerning the alleged abuse or neglect

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: Fam. Code § 261.105**

The department or designated agency shall immediately notify the law enforcement agency of any report it receives that concerns the death of a child from abuse or neglect.

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Utah**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: §§ 62A-4a-403; 408**

When a mandated reporter has reason to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse, he shall immediately notify a peace officer, a law enforcement agency, or the division.

Oral reports shall be followed by written reports within 48 hours.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: §§ 62A-4a-403; 408**

A peace officer or law enforcement agency shall immediately notify the division of reports received.

The division shall notify the law enforcement agency of reports received. In addition to its own investigation, the division will lend support to the law enforcement agency.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 62A-4a-403**

The reporter's observations of the conditions or circumstances that could result in abuse.

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: § 62A-4a-405**

Any person who has reason to believe that a child has died as a result of abuse shall report that fact to the local law enforcement agency, the county or district attorney, and the medical examiner.

Drug-Exposed Infants**Statute: § 62A-4a-404**

Any person who attends the birth or cares for a child determines that the child, at the time of birth, has fetal alcohol syndrome or fetal drug dependency shall report that determination to the division as soon as possible.

Vermont**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: Tit. 33, §§ 4913; 4914**

A mandated reporter who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused shall report within 24 hours.

A report shall be made orally or in writing to the commissioner of social and rehabilitation services.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: Tit. 33, §§ 4914; 4915**

The commissioner of social and rehabilitation services shall cause an investigation to commence within 72 hours after receipt of the report.

The commissioner shall request the reporter to follow the oral report with a written report.

Content of Reports**Statute: Tit. 33, § 4914**

- Name and address of the reporter
- Names and addresses of the child and the parents or other persons responsible for the child
- Age of the child
- Nature and extent of the child's injuries; any evidence of prior injury
- Any other information that might be helpful in establishing the cause of the injuries; the reasons for the neglect; protecting the child; and assisting the family

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Virgin Islands**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility**

Statute: Tit. 5, §§ 2533; 2534

When a mandated reporter has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been subjected to abuse, he shall immediately make a report to the police department or the department of social welfare.

Agency Responsibility

Statute: Tit. 5, § 2536(a)

The department shall:

- Receive all reports of alleged abuse
- Provide for emergency temporary care and protection of victims
- Within 24 hours of receipt of report commence an investigation

Content of Reports

Statute: Tit. 5, § 2534(b)

- Names and addresses of the child, parents, or other responsible persons
- Child's age and sex
- Nature and extent of the child's injuries or to other children in the home
- Name and address of person responsible for the abuse
- Family composition
- Source of the report; any action taken
- Any other information that might be helpful

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Virginia**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: §§ 63.2-1509; 63.2-1510**

A mandated reporter who has reason to suspect that a child has been abused shall report the matter immediately to the local department or the toll-free hotline.

If an employee of the department is suspected of abusing a child, the report shall be made to the court.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: §§ 63.2-1509; 63.2-1510**

The report shall be assigned to a local department of social services for an investigation or family assessment.

The initial oral report shall be reduced to writing by the child abuse coordinator of the local department.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 63.2-1509**

The report shall disclose all information that is the basis for the suspicion of abuse or neglect.

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: § 63.2-1503(D)-(E)**

When abuse or neglect is suspected in any case involving the death of a child, the local department shall report immediately to:

- The Commonwealth attorney
- The local law enforcement agency
- The regional medical examiner

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Washington**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: § 26.44.030**

When any mandated reporter has reasonable cause to believe that a child has suffered abuse, he shall make a report to the law enforcement agency or to the department.

An oral report shall be made at the first opportunity but no longer than 48 hours after there is reasonable cause.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: § 26.44.030**

If the report alleges physical injury, sexual abuse, or death of a child:

- The department shall notify the law enforcement agency within 24 hours if the child is endangered; within 72 hours otherwise
- A law enforcement agency shall report in writing to the county prosecutor and notify the department

Content of Reports**Statute: § 26.44.040**

- Name, address, and age of child
- Name and address of child's parents, guardian, or other person having custody
- Nature and extent of alleged injuries, neglect, or sexual abuse
- Any evidence of previous injury
- Any other information that might be helpful

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: § 26.44.030(4), (5)**

If the report involves a child who has died:

- The department shall notify the proper law enforcement agency
- The law enforcement agency shall report the incident in writing to the proper county prosecutor or city attorney and notify the department

Drug-Exposed Infants**Statute: § 26.44.170**

When an investigation is made that includes an in-person contact with the person alleged to have committed abuse, there shall be a determination of whether the use of alcohol or controlled substances is a contributing factor.

West Virginia**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: § 49-6A-2**

When a mandated reporter has reasonable cause to believe that a child is abused, he shall report immediately, and not more than 48 hours after suspecting abuse, to the department.

If the reporter believes the child has suffered serious physical or sexual abuse, a report shall be made to the Division of Public Safety or any law enforcement agency.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: § 49-6A-5**

The State department of human services shall maintain a 24 hour, 7 day a week telephone number to receive calls reporting suspected abuse or neglect.

A copy of any report of serious physical abuse, sexual abuse, or assault shall be forwarded by the department to the law enforcement agency, the prosecuting attorney, or the medical examiner's office.

Content of Reports**Statute: § 49-6A-2**

Observations of the conditions or circumstances that led to the suspicion that a child was an abused or neglected child.

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: § 49-6A-3**

Any mandated reporter who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has died as a result of abuse or neglect shall report that fact to the appropriate medical examiner or coroner.

Drug-Exposed InfantsNot addressed in statutes reviewed

Wisconsin**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: § 48.981**

Any mandated reporter having reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been abused shall report immediately by telephone to the county department, sheriff, or police department.

Any person who has reason to believe that an unborn child has been abused may report.

Agency Responsibility**Statute: § 48.981**

A person reporting may request an immediate investigation by the sheriff or police if the person believes the child is in immediate danger.

If the sheriff or police believe that criminal action is needed, the case shall be referred to the district attorney.

If the report is of suspected or threatened abuse, the department and police shall coordinate the planning and execution of the investigation.

Content of Reports

Not specified in statutes reviewed

Special Reporting Procedures**Suspicious Deaths****Statute: § 48.981(5)**

A mandated reporter who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has died as a result of abuse or neglect shall report that fact to the appropriate medical examiner or coroner

Drug-Exposed InfantsNot addressed in statutes reviewed

Wyoming**Reporting Procedures****Individual Responsibility****Statute: § 14-3-205**

Any person who knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused shall report it immediately to the child protective agency or local law enforcement agency.

Agency Responsibility

Statute: § 14-3-206

Reports made to the child protective agency or law enforcement agency shall be followed by a written report confirming or not confirming the facts reported.

Content of Reports

Not specified in statutes reviewed

Special Reporting Procedures

Suspicious Deaths

Statute: § 14-3-207

Any person who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has died as a result of abuse or neglect shall report to the appropriate coroner.

Drug-Exposed Infants

Not addressed in statutes reviewed