



National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information
National Adoption Information Clearinghouse



Gateways to Information: Protecting Children and Strengthening Families

2003 Child Abuse and Neglect State Statutes Series Ready Reference Reporting Laws: Cross-Reporting Among Systems

What You Need to Know

The Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention and Treatment Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 5106a), requires States to make provision for the cooperation of State law enforcement officials and State agencies providing human services in the investigation, assessment, prosecution, and treatment of child abuse or neglect.

All 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Territories have statutes specifying procedures that State agencies must follow in handling reports of suspected child abuse or neglect. In most States, these procedures include requirements for cross-systemic reporting and/or information sharing among professional entities. Typically, reports are shared among social services agencies, law enforcement departments, and prosecutors' offices.



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

This **Ready Reference** is a product of the **Child Abuse and Neglect State Statutes Series** prepared by the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information. **Ready Reference** publications contain excerpts of text with citations from specific sections of each State's code that focus on a single issue of special interest. While every attempt has been made to be as complete as possible, additional information on these topics may be in other sections of a State's code as well as in agency regulations, case law, and informal practices and procedures.

Electronic copies of this publication may be downloaded from the Clearinghouse Web site.

We welcome your comments and suggestions about this publication.

ALABAMA

Ala. Code § 26-14-3(b)-(d) (Supp. 1997)

When an initial report is made to a law enforcement official, the official subsequently shall inform the Department of Human Resources of the report, so the department can carry out its responsibility to provide protective services, when deemed appropriate to the respective child or children.

When the Department of Human Resources receives initial reports of suspected abuse or neglect involving discipline or corporal punishment committed in a public or private school or suspected abuse or neglect in a State-operated child residential facility, the Department of Human Resources shall transmit a copy of school reports to the law enforcement agency, and residential facility reports to the operating State agency which shall conduct the investigation.

Nothing in this chapter shall preclude interagency agreements between Departments of Human Resources, law enforcement, and other State agencies on procedures for investigating reports of suspected child abuse and neglect to provide for Departments of Human Resources to assist law enforcement and other State agencies in these investigations.

Ala. Code § 26-14-7(d) (1992)

The county Department of Human Resources shall make a complete written report of the investigation, together with its recommendations. Such reports may be made available to:

- The appropriate court, the district attorney; and
- The appropriate law enforcement agency upon request

ALASKA

Alaska Stat. § 47.17.020(c), (e)-(f) (Michie, WESTLAW through 1999 1st Spec. Sess.)

If the person making a report of harm under this section cannot reasonably contact the nearest office of the Department of Health and Social Services and immediate action is necessary for the well-being of the child, the person shall make the report to a peace officer. The peace officer shall immediately take action to protect the child and shall, at the earliest opportunity, notify the nearest office of the department.

The Department of Health and Social Services shall immediately notify the nearest law enforcement agency:

- If the department concludes that the harm was caused by a person who is not responsible for the child's welfare;
- If the department is unable to determine who caused the harm to the child or whether the person who is believed to have caused the harm has responsibility for the child's welfare; or
- If the department concludes that the report involves possible criminal conduct or abuse or neglect that results in the need for medical treatment of the child.

If a law enforcement agency determines that a child has been abused or neglected and that:

- The harm was caused by a teacher or other person employed by the school or school district in which the child is enrolled as a student;
- The harm occurred during an activity sponsored by the school or school district in which the child is enrolled as a student; or
- The harm occurred on the premises of the school in which the child is enrolled as a student or on the premises of a school within the district in which the child is enrolled as a student;

the law enforcement agency shall notify the chief administrative officer of the school or district in which the child is enrolled immediately after the agency determines that a child has been abused or neglected under the circumstances set out in this section, except that if the person about whom the report has been made is the chief administrative officer or a member of the chief administrative officer's immediate family, the law enforcement agency shall notify the Commissioner of Education and Early Development that the child has been abused or neglected under the circumstances set out in this section.

The notification must set out the factual basis for the law enforcement agency's determination. If the notification involves a person in the teaching profession, the law enforcement agency shall send a copy of the notification to the Professional Teaching Practices Commission.

Alaska Stat. § 47.17.025(a) (Michie 1996)

A law enforcement agency shall immediately notify the Department of Health and Social Services of the receipt of a report of harm to a child from abuse. Upon receipt from any source of a report of harm to a child from abuse, the Department shall notify the Department of Law and investigate the report and, within 72 hours of the receipt of the report, shall provide a written report of its investigation of the harm to a child from abuse to the Department of Law for review.

AMERICAN SAMOA

A.S. Code § 45.2010(a) (A.S. Bar 2003)

Reports of known or suspected child abuse or neglect made under this chapter are immediately made to the department [of public safety] by a written report prepared by those persons required to report, if so requested by the receiving agency. The receiving agency forwards a copy of its own report to the central registry on forms supplied by the registry.

If at any time a report of suspected child abuse or neglect is made to the [child protection] agency, the department [of public safety] must be notified. If a report of suspected child abuse or neglect is made to the department, the agency must be notified.

ARIZONA

Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 13-3620(E) (West Supp. 1998)

When such telephone or in-person reports are received by the peace officer, they shall immediately notify Child Protective Services in the Department of Economic Security and make the information available to them. Notwithstanding any other statute, when Child Protective Services receives these reports by telephone or in person, it shall immediately notify a peace officer in the appropriate jurisdiction.

ARKANSAS

Ark. Code Ann. § 12-12-507(d)-(e) (West, WESTLAW through Ark. 2003 Legis. Serv., Act 758)

In the event that the child abuse hotline receives notification that a client or a resident of any facility licensed or registered by the State of Arkansas has been subjected to child maltreatment while at such facility, the department shall immediately notify that facility's licensing or registering authority of its receipt of initial notification of suspected maltreatment.

When a person, agency, corporation, or partnership then providing substitute care for any child in the custody of the Department of Human Services or a Department employee or employee's spouse or other person residing in the home is reported as being suspected of child maltreatment, the investigation shall be conducted pursuant to procedures established by the Department. Such procedures shall include referral of allegations to the Department of Arkansas State Police or appropriate law enforcement agency should the allegation involve severe maltreatment.

Ark. Code Ann. § 12-12-509(a) (West, WESTLAW through Ark. 2003 Legis. Serv., Act 758)

However, if the notice [of suspected child maltreatment] contains an allegation of severe maltreatment then the Department of Human Services shall immediately notify law enforcement, and the Department shall initiate an investigation in cooperation with law enforcement agencies and the prosecuting attorney within 24 hours.

CALIFORNIA

Cal. Penal Code § 11166(h)-(i) (West, WESTLAW through End of 2003-04 Reg. Sess. & 2nd. Sess.)

A county probation or welfare department shall immediately, or as soon as practically possible, report by telephone, fax, or electronically transmit to the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the case, to the agency given the responsibility for investigation of cases, and to the district attorney's office every known or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect, or reports made based on risk to a child which relates solely to the inability of the parent to provide the child with regular care due to the parent's substance abuse, which shall be reported only to the county welfare or probation department. A county probation or welfare department also shall send, fax, or electronically transmit a written report thereof within 36 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident to any agency to which it is required to make a telephone report under this subdivision.

A law enforcement agency shall immediately, or as soon as practically possible, report by telephone to the agency given responsibility for investigation of cases and to the district attorney's office every known or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect reported to it, except acts or omissions coming within subdivision (b) of Section § 11165.2, which shall be reported only to the county welfare or probation department. A law enforcement agency shall report to the county welfare or probation department every known or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect reported to it which is alleged to have occurred as a result of the action of a person responsible for the child's welfare, or as the result of the failure of a person responsible for the child's welfare to adequately protect the minor from abuse when the person responsible for the child's welfare knew or reasonably should have known that the minor was in danger of abuse. A law enforcement agency also shall send, fax, or electronically transmit a written report thereof within 36 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident to any agency to which it is required to make a telephone report under this subdivision.

COLORADO***Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 19-3-307(3) (West, WESTLAW through Colo. 2003 Legis. Serv., Ch. 196)***

A copy of the report of known or suspected child abuse or neglect shall be transmitted immediately by the county department to the district attorney's office and to the local law enforcement agency.

When the county department reasonably believes a criminal act of abuse or neglect of a child in foster care has occurred, the county department shall transmit immediately a copy of the written report prepared by the county department to the district attorney's office and to the local law enforcement agency.

Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 19-3-308(4), (5) (West, WESTLAW through Colo. 2003 Legis. Serv., Ch. 196)

The county department shall be the agency responsible for the coordination of all investigations of all reports of known or suspected instances of intrafamilial abuse or neglect. The county department shall arrange for such investigations to be conducted by persons trained to conduct either the complete investigation or such parts thereof as may be assigned. The county department shall conduct the investigation in conjunction with the local law enforcement agency, to the extent a joint investigation is possible and deemed appropriate, and any other appropriate agency. The county department may arrange for the initial investigation to be conducted by another agency with personnel having appropriate training and skill. The county department shall provide for persons to be continuously available to respond to such reports. Contiguous counties may cooperate to fulfill the requirements of this subsection. The county department or other agency authorized to conduct the investigation, for the purpose of such investigation, shall access to the records and reports of child abuse or neglect maintained by the state department for information under the name of the child or suspected perpetrator.

Upon the receipt of a report, if the county Department of Social Services reasonably believes that an incident of intrafamilial abuse or neglect has occurred, it shall immediately offer social services to the child who is the subject of the report and his family and may file a petition in the juvenile court or the district court with juvenile jurisdiction on behalf of such child. If, before the investigation is completed, the opinion of the investigators is that assistance of the local law enforcement agency is necessary for the protection of the child or other children under the same care, the local law enforcement agency shall be notified. If immediate removal is necessary to protect the child or other children under the same care from further abuse, the child or children may be placed in protective custody in accordance with statute.

If a local law enforcement agency receives a report of a known or suspected incident of intrafamilial abuse or neglect, it shall forthwith attempt to contact the county Department of Social Services in order to refer the case for investigation. If the local law enforcement agency is unable to contact the county department, it shall forthwith make a complete investigation and may institute appropriate legal proceedings on behalf of the subject child or other children under the same care. As a part of an investigation pursuant to this subsection, the local law enforcement agency shall have access to the records and reports of child abuse or neglect maintained by the state department for information under the name of the child or the suspected perpetrator. The local law enforcement agency, upon the receipt of a report and upon completion of any investigation it may undertake, shall forthwith forward a summary of the investigatory data plus all relevant documents to the county Department of Social Services.

CONNECTICUT

Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 17a-101b(c) (West 1998)

If the Commissioner or his designee receives a report alleging sexual abuse or serious physical abuse including but not limited to a report that a child:

- Has died;
- Has been sexually assaulted;
- Has suffered brain damage, loss or serious impairment of a bodily function or organ;
- Has been sexually exploited; or
- Has suffered serious non-accidental physical injury;

he shall, within 24 hours of receipt of such report, notify the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 17a-101h (West, WESTLAW through 1/1/2000)

Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes to the contrary, any person authorized to conduct an investigation of abuse or neglect shall coordinate investigatory activities in order to minimize the number of interviews of any child and share information with other persons authorized to conduct an investigation of child abuse or neglect, as appropriate.

DELAWARE

Del. Code Ann. tit. 16, § 906(b)(3)-(4), (13), (15) (WESTLAW through 10/2002 Exec. Sess.)

The division may investigate any report, but shall conduct an investigation involving all reports, which if true, would constitute violations against a child by those responsible for the care, custody and control of the child pursuant to the provisions of statute, or an attempt to commit any such crimes. Division staff shall contact the appropriate law enforcement agency upon receipt of any report requiring an investigation under this section and shall provide such agency with a detailed description of the report received.

The assisting law enforcement agency shall promptly conduct its own criminal investigation, and keep the division regularly apprised of the status and findings of its investigation. Law enforcement agencies and the division shall develop protocols to ensure compliance with this subsection.

When a written report is made by a person required to report, the division shall contact the person who made such report within 48 hours of the receipt of the report in order to ensure that full information has been received and to obtain any additional information or medical records, or both, which may be pertinent.

Multidisciplinary services shall be used whenever possible in conducting the investigation or family assessment and services approach, including the services of law enforcement agencies, the medical community, and other agencies, both public and private. The division and the attorney general's office shall cooperate with law enforcement agencies and the Family Court to develop training programs to increase the ability of division personnel, court personnel, and law enforcement officers to investigate suspected cases of abuse and neglect.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA***D.C. Code Ann. § 4-1321.02(d) (WESTLAW through 10-2-01)***

In addition to the requirements above [of this section, pertaining to reporting requirements], any mental health professional, or a law enforcement officer, except an undercover officer whose identity or investigation might be jeopardized, shall report immediately, in writing, to the Child Protective Services Division that the law enforcement officer or health professional has reasonable cause to believe that a child is abused as a result of inadequate care, control, or subsistence in the home environment due to exposure to drug-related activity.

FLORIDA***Fla. Stat. Ann. § 39.301(2)(a) (West, WESTLAW through End of 2001 1st Reg. Sess.)***

The Department shall immediately forward allegations of criminal conduct to the municipal or county law enforcement agency of the municipality or county in which the alleged conduct has occurred.

GEORGIA***Ga. Code Ann. § 19-7-5(e) (WESTLAW through 2000 Gen. Assem.)***

If a report of child abuse is made to the child welfare agency or independently discovered by the agency, and the agency has reasonable cause to believe such report is true or the report contains any allegation or evidence of child abuse, then the agency shall immediately notify the appropriate police authority or district attorney.

GUAM***Guam Code Ann. tit. 19, § 13203(b) (WESTLAW through 2003 P.L. 26-152)***

Child Protective Services shall immediately or as soon as practically possible report by telephone to the Guam Police Department and to the Attorney General's Office every known or suspected instance of child abuse, except acts or omissions coming under § 13101(t)(4) [concerning neglect]. Child Protective Services shall also send a written report thereof within 48 hours of receiving information concerning the incident to any agency to which it is required to make a telephone report.

The Guam Police Department shall immediately or as soon as practically possible report by telephone to Child Protective Services and to the attorney general's office every known or suspected instance of child abuse reported to it, except acts or omissions coming under § 13101(t)(4) [concerning neglect], which shall only be reported to Child Protective Services. However, the Guam Police Department shall report to Child Protective Services every known or suspected instance of child abuse reported to it which is alleged to have occurred as a result of the inaction of a person responsible for the child's welfare to adequately protect the minor from abuse when such person knew or reasonably should have known that the minor was in danger of abuse. The Guam Police Department shall also send a written report within 48 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident to any agency to which it is required to make a telephone report.

Child Protective Services and the Guam Police Department shall immediately, or as soon as practically possible, report by telephone to the appropriate Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program every known or suspected instance of child abuse reported to them when such report involves active duty military personnel or their dependents.

HAWAII

Haw. Rev. Stat. § 350-1.1(c) (WESTLAW through 2001 3rd Spec. Sess.)

If a police department is the initiating agency, a written report shall be filed with the Department of Human Services for cases that the police take further action on or for active cases in the department under this chapter.

Haw. Rev. Stat. § 350-2(b)-(c) (WESTLAW through 1999 Reg. Sess.)

The department shall inform the appropriate police department of all reports received by the department regarding a case of child abuse or neglect, including reports received under § 350-1.1, provided that the name of the person who reported the case of child abuse or neglect shall be released to the police department pursuant only to court order or the person's consent.

The Department of Human Services shall inform the appropriate police department or office of the prosecuting attorney of the relevant information concerning a case of child abuse or neglect when such information is required by the police department or the office of the prosecuting attorney for the investigation of that case; provided the name of the person who reported the case of child abuse or neglect shall only be released to a police department or an office of the prosecuting attorney pursuant to court order or the person's consent.

IDAHO

Idaho Code § 16-1619(a) (Supp.1998)

The Department of Health and Welfare shall be informed by law enforcement of any report made directly to it.

ILLINOIS

325 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 5/7 (West, WESTLAW through 2003 Reg. Sess.)

Reports made to the central register through the statewide, toll-free telephone number shall be immediately transmitted to the appropriate Child Protective Service Unit. The Department of Children and Family Services shall, within 24 hours, orally notify local law enforcement personnel and the office of the state's attorney of the involved county of the receipt of any report alleging:

- The death of a child;
- Serious injury to a child including, but not limited to, brain damage, skull fractures, subdural hematomas and internal injuries;
- Torture of a child;
- Malnutrition of a child; and
- Sexual abuse to a child, including, but not limited to, sexual intercourse, sexual exploitation, sexual molestation, and sexually transmitted disease in a child age 12 and under.

All oral reports made by the Department of Children and Family Services to local law enforcement personnel and the office of the State's Attorney of the involved county shall be confirmed in writing within 48 hours of the oral report.

INDIANA

Ind. Code Ann. § 31-33-7-5 (Michie 1997)

A copy of the local child protection service shall immediately be made available to:

- The appropriate law enforcement agency;
- The prosecuting attorney; and
- In a case involving death, the coroner for the coroner's consideration.

Ind. Code Ann. § 31-33-7-7 (Michie 1997)

When a law enforcement agency receives an initial report under the reporting law that a child may be a victim of child abuse or neglect, the law enforcement agency shall:

- Immediately communicate the report to the local child protection service whether or not the law enforcement agency has reason to believe there exists an imminent danger to the child's health or welfare; and
- Conduct an immediate, onsite investigation of the report along with the local child protection service whenever the law enforcement agency has reason to believe that an offense has been committed.

In all cases, the law enforcement agency shall forward any information, including copies of investigation reports, on incidents of cases in which a child may be a victim of child abuse or neglect -- whether or not obtained under the reporting laws -- to the local child protection agency and the juvenile court.

IOWA

Iowa Code Ann. § 232.70(4), (6), (7) (West, WESTLAW through Iowa End of 2002 2nd Ex. Sess.)

Upon receipt of a report, the Department shall do the following:

- Immediately, upon receipt of an oral report, make a determination as to whether the report constitutes an allegation of child abuse;
- Notify the appropriate county attorney of receipt of the report.

If the report is made to any agency other than the Department of Human Services, such agency shall promptly refer the report to the Department of Human Services.

If a report would be determined to constitute an allegation of child abuse relating to a sexual offense with or to a child, except that the suspected abuse resulted from the acts or omissions of a person other than a person responsible for the care of the child, the Department shall refer the report to the appropriate law enforcement agency having jurisdiction to investigate the allegation, and refer the report orally as soon as practicable and in writing within 72 hours of receiving the report.

KANSAS

Kan. Stat. Ann. § 38-1522(c), (e) (West, WESTLAW through 2002 Reg. Sess.)

Except as provided below, reports made pursuant to this law shall be made to the State Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. When the Department is not open for business, the reports shall be made to the appropriate law enforcement agency. On the next day that the Department is open for business, the law enforcement agency shall report to the Department any report received and investigation initiated. The reports may be made orally or, on request of the Department, in writing.

Reports of child abuse or neglect occurring in an institution operated by the Secretary of Social and Rehabilitation Services or the Commissioner of Juvenile Justice shall be made to the Attorney General. All other reports of child abuse or neglect by persons employed by or of children of persons employed by the State Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services or the Juvenile Justice Authority shall be made to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

KENTUCKY

Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 620.030(1), (3) (Michie Supp. 1998)

If the Cabinet for Children and Families receives a report of abuse or neglect allegedly committed by a person other than a parent, guardian or person exercising custodial control or supervision, the Cabinet shall refer that matter to the Commonwealth's attorney or the county attorney and the local law enforcement agency or the Kentucky State Police. Nothing in this section shall relieve individuals of their obligation to report.

The Cabinet for Families and Children upon request shall receive from any agency of the State or any other agency, institution or facility providing services to the child or his family, such cooperation, assistance and information as will enable the Cabinet to fulfill its responsibilities under the law.

Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 620.040(1)(c)-(d), (3) (West, WESTLAW through End of 2000 Reg. Sess.)

The Cabinet shall, within 72 hours, exclusive of weekends and holidays, make a written report to the Commonwealth's or county attorney and the local enforcement agency or Kentucky State Police concerning the action that has been taken on the investigation.

If the report alleges abuse or neglect by someone other than a parent, guardian, or person exercising custodial control or supervision, the cabinet shall immediately notify the Commonwealth's or county attorney and the local law enforcement agency or Kentucky State Police.

If the Cabinet or its designated representative receives a report of abuse by a person other than a parent, guardian, or other person exercising custodial control or supervision of a child, it shall immediately notify the local law enforcement agency or Kentucky State Police and the Commonwealth's or county attorney of the receipt of the report and its contents and they shall investigate the matter.

The Cabinet or its designated representative shall participate in an investigation of noncustodial physical abuse or neglect at the request of the local law enforcement agency or the Kentucky State Police. The Cabinet shall participate in all investigations of reported or suspected sexual abuse of a child.

LOUISIANA

La. Children's Code art. 610(E) (West, WESTLAW through all 1999 Reg. Sess. Acts)

All reports received by any local or State law enforcement agency involving abuse or neglect in which the child's parent or caretaker, a person who maintains an interpersonal dating or engagement relationship with the parent or caretaker, or a person living in the same residence with the parent or caretaker as a spouse whether married or not, is believed responsible shall be referred to the local child protection unit of the Department of Social Services.

A local child protection unit shall refer abuse or neglect cases not involving a parent, caretaker, or occupant of the household to the appropriate law enforcement agency and shall also report all cases of child death which involve a suspicion of abuse or neglect as a contributing factor in the child's death to the local or State law enforcement agencies, the office of the district attorney, and the coroner.

MAINE

Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 22, § 4011-A(4) (West, WESTLAW through Me. 2003 Legis. Serv., Ch. 145)

When a licensed mental health professional is required to report, and the knowledge or reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been or is likely to be abused or neglected comes from treatment of a person responsible for the abuse or neglect, the licensed mental health professional shall report to the Department of Human Services in accordance with the reporting laws and under the following conditions:

The Department of Human Services shall consult with the licensed mental health professional who has made the report and shall attempt to reach agreement with the professional as to how the report is to be pursued. If agreement is not reached, the licensed mental health professional may request a meeting.

Upon the request of the licensed mental health professional who has made the report, after the Department has completed its investigation of the report or has received a preliminary protection order and where the Department plans to initiate or has initiated a final protection or plans to refer or has referred the report to law enforcement officials, the Department shall convene at least one meeting of the licensed mental health professional who made the report, at least one representative from the Department, a licensed mental health professional with expertise in child abuse or neglect and a representative of the district attorney's office having jurisdiction over the report, unless that office indicates that prosecution is unlikely.

The persons meeting shall make recommendations regarding treatment and prosecution of the person responsible for the abuse or neglect. The persons making the recommendations shall take into account the nature, extent and severity of abuse or neglect, the safety of the child and the community and needs of the child and other family members for treatment of the effects of the abuse or neglect and the willingness of the person responsible for the abuse or neglect to engage in treatment. The persons making the recommendations may review or revise these recommendations at their discretion.

The intent of this subsection is to encourage offenders to seek and effectively utilize treatment, at the same time providing any necessary protection and treatment for the child and other family members.

MARYLAND

Md. Code Ann. Fam. Law § 5-704(b)(2) (WESTLAW through Md. 2003 Legis. Serv., Ch. 308)

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

This paragraph does not prohibit a local Department of Social Services and an appropriate law enforcement agency from agreeing to cooperative arrangements.

MASSACHUSETTS

Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 119, § 51B(4) (West, WESTLAW through 2000 2nd Ann. Sess.)

The Department of Social Services shall notify in writing the district attorney for the county in which the child resides and for the county in which the offense occurred by transmitting to such district attorney a copy of the report required under the reporting laws, if after an investigation and evaluation, the Department has reasonable cause to believe that any of the following conditions has resulted from abuse or neglect; provided, however, that the Department may immediately report cases of serious physical injury to the appropriate office of the district attorney:

- A child has died;
- A child has been sexually assaulted;
- A child has suffered brain damage, loss or substantial impairment of a bodily function or organ, or substantial disfigurement;
- A child has been sexually exploited, which shall mean encouraging a child to engage in prostitution or in the obscene or pornographic photographing, filming, or depicting of a child;
- A child has suffered serious physical abuse or injury that includes, but is not limited to: a fracture of any bone, severe burn, impairment of any organ, or any other serious injury;
- An injury requiring the child to be placed on life-support systems;
- Any other disclosure of physical abuse involving physical evidence which may be destroyed;
- Any current disclosure by the child of sexual assault; or
- The presence of physical evidence of sexual assault.

The Department shall forward to the local law enforcement authorities in the town in which the child resides and the town in which the offense occurred a copy of the report provided to the district attorney.

MICHIGAN

Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 722.623(b)(5)-(7) (West, WESTLAW through P.A. 2003, No. 6)

Upon receipt of a written report of suspected child abuse or neglect, the department may provide copies to the prosecuting attorney and the probate court of the counties in which the child suspected of being abused or neglected resides and is found.

If an allegation, written report or subsequent investigation of suspected child abuse or child neglect indicates a violation of the Michigan penal code, or if the allegation, written report or subsequent investigation indicates that the suspected child abuse or child neglect was committed by an individual who is not a person who is responsible for the child's health or welfare, including, but not limited to, a member of the clergy, a teacher, or a teacher's aide, the department shall transmit a copy of the allegation or written report and the results of any investigation to a law enforcement agency in the county in which the incident occurred.

If a local law enforcement agency receives an allegation or written report of suspected child abuse or child neglect, and the allegation, written report, or subsequent investigation indicates that the child abuse or child neglect was committed by a person responsible for the child's health or welfare, the local law enforcement agency shall refer the allegation or provide a copy of the written report and the results of any investigation to the county family independence agency of the county in which the abused or neglected child is found.

MINNESOTA

Minn. Stat. Ann. § 626.556, Subd. 3, 7, 10(a) (West, WESTLAW through End of 2002 1st Sp. Sess.)

The police department or the county sheriff, upon receiving a report, shall immediately notify the local welfare agency or agency responsible for assessing or investigating the report, orally and in writing. The local welfare agency, or agency responsible for assessing or investigating the report, upon receiving a report, shall immediately notify the local police department or the county sheriff orally and in writing. The county sheriff and the head of every local welfare agency, agency responsible for assessing or investigating the report, and police department shall each designate a person within their agency, department, or office who is responsible for ensuring that the notification duties of this statute are carried out.

Written reports received by a police department or the county sheriff shall be forwarded immediately to the local welfare agency or the agency responsible for assessing or investigating the report. The police department or the county sheriff may keep copies of reports received by them. Copies of written reports received by a local welfare department or the agency responsible for assessing or investigating the report shall be forwarded immediately to the local police department or the county sheriff.

If the report alleges neglect, physical abuse, or sexual abuse by a parent, guardian, or individual functioning within the family unit as a person responsible for the child's care, the local welfare agency shall immediately conduct an assessment including gathering information on the existence of substance abuse and offer protective social services for purposes of preventing further abuses, safeguarding and enhancing the welfare of the abused or neglected minor, and preserving family life whenever possible. If the report alleges a violation of a criminal statute involving sexual abuse, physical abuse, or neglect or endangerment, the local law enforcement agency and local welfare agency shall coordinate the planning and execution of their respective investigation and assessment efforts to avoid a duplication of fact-finding efforts and multiple interviews.

MISSISSIPPI

Miss. Code Ann. § 43-21-353(1), (8) (WESTLAW through End of 2002 2nd Ex. Sess.)

The Department of Human Services shall immediately make a referral to the youth court intake unit, which unit shall promptly comply with 43-21-357. Where appropriate, the Department of Human Services shall additionally make a referral to the youth court prosecutor. Upon receiving a report that a child has been sexually abused, or burned, tortured, mutilated or otherwise physically abused in such a manner as to cause serious bodily harm, or upon receiving any report of abuse that would be a felony under State or Federal law, the Department of Human Services shall immediately notify the law enforcement agency in whose jurisdiction the abuse occurred and shall notify the appropriate prosecutor within 48 hours. The Department of Human Services shall have the duty to provide the law enforcement agency all the names and facts known at the time of the report; this duty shall be of a continuing nature.

If a report is made directly to the Department of Human Services that a child has been abused or neglected in an out-of-home setting, a referral shall be made immediately to the law enforcement agency in whose jurisdiction the abuse occurred and the Department shall the notify the district attorney's office within 48 hours of such report.

MISSOURI

Mo. Ann. Stat. § 210.145(3), (4), (9) (West, WESTLAW through End of 2002 2nd Reg. Sess.)

The local office shall contact the appropriate law enforcement agency immediately upon receipt of a report which Division personnel determine merits an investigation or which if true would constitute a suspected violation of any of the following criminal statutes: 1st or 2nd degree murder; voluntary or involuntary manslaughter, if the victim is a child less than 18 years of age; rape or forcible sodomy, if the victim is a child less than 18 years of age; other crime under chapter 566 pertaining to sexual offenses, if the victim is a child less than 18 years of age and the perpetrator is 21 years of age or older; promoting prostitution, if the victim is a child less than 18 years of age; incest; abandonment; abuse or endangerment of a child; the use of a child in a sexual performance or the promotion or possession of child pornography; or an attempt to commit any such crimes.

The local office of the division shall cause an investigation or family assessment and services approach to be initiated immediately or no later than within 24 hours of receipt of the report from the division, except in cases where the sole basis for the report is educational neglect.

If the report indicates that educational neglect is the only complaint and there is no suspicion of other neglect or abuse, the investigation shall be initiated within 72 hours of receipt of the report. If the report indicates the child is in danger of serious physical harm or threat to life, an investigation shall include direct observation of the subject child within 24 hours of the receipt of the report. Local law enforcement shall take all necessary steps to facilitate such direct observation. When the child is reported absent from the residence, the location and the well-being of the child shall be verified.

Multidisciplinary teams shall be used whenever conducting the investigation as determined by the division in conjunction with local law enforcement. Multidisciplinary teams shall be used in providing protective or preventive social services, including the services of law enforcement, a liaison of the local public school, the juvenile officer, the juvenile court, and other agencies, both public and private.

MONTANA

Mont. Code Ann. § 41-3-202(1) (WESTLAW through Mont. 2003 Legis. Serv., Ch. 406 & 555)

Upon receipt of a report, as required by the reporting laws, that a child is or has been abused or neglected, the department shall promptly assess the information contained in the report and make a determination regarding the level of response required and the timeframe within which action must be initiated. If the department determines that an investigation is required, a social worker, the county attorney, or a peace officer shall promptly conduct a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding the allegations of abuse or neglect of the child.

NEBRASKA***Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 28-711 (West, WESTLAW through End of 2002 3rd Spec. Sess.)***

Law enforcement agencies receiving any reports of abuse or neglect under this subsection shall notify the State central registry on the next working day by phone or mail.

The Department of Health and Human Services shall establish a statewide toll-free number to be used by any person any hour of the day or night, any day of the week, to make reports of abuse or neglect. Reports of abuse or neglect not previously made to or by a law enforcement agency shall be made immediately to such agency by the department.

Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 28-713(1), (4), (5) (Michie Supp. 1998)

Upon the receipt of a call reporting abuse and neglect as required by the reporting law, it is the duty of the law enforcement agency to investigate the report, to take immediate steps to protect the child, and to institute legal proceedings if appropriate.

The law enforcement agency may request assistance from the Department of Health and Human Services during the investigation and shall, by the next working day, notify either the hotline or the department of receipt of the report, including whether or not an investigation is being undertaken by the law enforcement agency. A copy of all reports, whether or not an investigation is being undertaken, shall be provided to the department.

The Department of Health and Human Services shall, by the next working day after receiving a report, make a written report or a summary on forms provided by the department to the proper law enforcement agency in the county and enter in the central registry all reports opened for investigation of abuse or neglect and any action taken.

The department shall, upon request, make available to the appropriate investigating law enforcement agency and the county attorney a copy of all reports relative to a case of suspected abuse or neglect.

NEVADA***Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 432B.260(1), (8) (WESTLAW through Nev. 2003 Legis. Serv., Ch. 2)***

Upon the receipt of a report concerning the possible abuse or neglect of a child, an agency which provides child welfare services or a law enforcement agency shall promptly notify the appropriate licensing authority, if any. A law enforcement agency shall promptly notify an agency which provides child welfare services of any report it receives.

An agency which provides child welfare services and a law enforcement agency shall cooperate in the investigation, if any, or a report of abuse or neglect of a child.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 169-C:38(I)-(II) (Supp. 1998)

The Department of Health and Human Services shall immediately refer, by telephone or in person, all cases in which there is reason to believe that any person under the age of 18 years has been:

- Sexually molested;
- Sexually exploited;
- Intentionally physically injured so as to cause serious bodily injury;
- Physically injured by other than accidental means so as to cause serious bodily injury; or
- A victim of a crime

to the local law enforcement agency in the community in which the acts of abuse are believed to have occurred. The Department shall also make a written report to the law enforcement agency within 48 hours, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays excluded. A copy of this report shall be sent to the office of the county attorney.

All law enforcement personnel and department employees shall cooperate in limiting the number of interviews of a child victim and, when appropriate, shall conduct joint interviews of the child. Employees of the Department shall share with the investigating police officers all information in their possession which it is lawful for them to disclose to a law enforcement agency. Investigating police officers shall not use or reveal any confidential information shared with them by the department except to the extent necessary for the investigation and prosecution of the case.

N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 169-C:38-a (West, WESTLAW through End of 2002 Reg. Sess.)

The Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Justice shall jointly develop a standardized protocol for the interviewing of victims and the investigation and assessment of cases of child abuse and neglect. The protocol shall seek to minimize the impact on the victim. The protocol shall also be designed to protect the rights of all parties affected. The protocol shall specifically address the need to establish safe and appropriate places for interviewing children.

NEW JERSEY

N.J. Stat. Ann. § 9:6-8.10a(e) (West, WESTLAW through L. 2000, ch. 143)

For incidents determined by the Division of Youth and Family Services to be substantiated, the division shall forward to the police or law enforcement agency in whose jurisdiction the child named in the report resides, the identity of persons alleged to have committed child abuse or neglect and of victims of child abuse or neglect, their addresses, the nature of the allegations, and other relevant information, including, but not limited to, prior reports of abuse or neglect and names of siblings obtained by the division during its investigation of a report of child abuse or neglect. The police or law enforcement agency shall keep such information confidential.

N.J. Stat. Ann. § 9:6-8.11 (West 1993)

Upon receipt of any such report the Division shall immediately take such action as shall be necessary to insure the safety of the child, and to that end may request and shall receive appropriate assistance from local and State law enforcement officials.

NEW MEXICO

N.M. Stat. Ann. § 32A-4-3(B) (Michie Supp. 1998)

Any law enforcement agency receiving the report shall immediately transmit the facts of the report and the name, address and phone number of the reporter by telephone to the Children, Youth and Families Department's office in the county where the child resides and shall transmit the same information in writing within 48 hours.

Any office of the Children, Youth and Families Department receiving a report shall immediately transmit the facts of the report and the name, address and phone number of the reporter by telephone to a local law enforcement agency and shall transmit the same information in writing within 48 hours.

NEW YORK

N.Y. Soc. Serv. Law § 423(1)(e), (6) (West, WESTLAW through L. 2000)

Except as provided by law, the child protective service shall be the sole public agency responsible for receiving and investigating or arranging with the appropriate society for the prevention of cruelty to children to investigate all reports of child abuse or maltreatment made pursuant to law for the purpose of providing protective services to prevent further abuses or maltreatment to children and to coordinate, provide or arrange for or monitor the provision of those services necessary to safeguard and ensure the child's well-being and development and to preserve and stabilize family life wherever appropriate.

A social services district may establish a multidisciplinary investigative team or teams, at a local or regional level, for the purpose of investigating reports of suspected child abuse or maltreatment. The social services district shall have discretion with regard to the category or categories of suspected child abuse or maltreatment such team or teams may investigate, provided, however, the social services district shall place particular emphasis on cases involving the serious abuse of children.

A multidisciplinary investigative team may include, but is not limited to, representatives from the child protective service, office of the district attorney or local law enforcement, the medical profession, public health agencies, mental health agencies, schools and medical facilities, including hospitals or other appropriate agencies or institutions and personnel of any existing child advocacy centers.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, members of a multidisciplinary investigative team may share with other team members client-identifiable information concerning the child or the child's family.

NORTH CAROLINA

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 7B-301 (West, WESTLAW through 2000 Reg. Sess.)

Upon receipt of any report of sexual abuse of the juvenile in a child care facility, the director the Department of Social Services shall notify the State Bureau of Investigation within 24 hours or on the next workday. If sexual abuse in a child care facility is not alleged in the initial report, but during the course of the investigation there is reason to suspect that sexual abuse has occurred, the director shall immediately notify the State Bureau of Investigation. Upon notification that sexual abuse may have occurred in a child care facility, the State Bureau of Investigation may form a task force to investigate the report.

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 7B-307(a), (b) (West, WESTLAW through 2000 Reg. Sess.)

If the director of the Department of Social Services finds evidence that a juvenile may have been abused, the director shall make an immediate oral and subsequent written report of the findings to the district attorney or the district attorney's designee and the appropriate local law enforcement agency within 48 hours after the receipt of the report.

The local law enforcement agency shall immediately, but no later than 48 hours after receipt of a report of abuse, initiate and coordinate a criminal investigation with the protective services investigation being conducted by the county Department of Social Services. Upon completion of the investigation, the district attorney shall determine whether criminal prosecution is appropriate and may request the director or the director's designee to appear before a magistrate.

If the director of the Department of Social Services receives information that a juvenile may have been physically harmed in violation of any criminal statute by any person other than the juvenile's parent, guardian, custodian, or caretaker, the director shall make an immediate oral report and subsequent written report of that information to the district attorney or the district attorney's designee and to the appropriate local law enforcement agency within 48 hours after receipt of the information.

The local law enforcement agency shall immediately, but no later than 48 hours after receipt of a report that a juvenile has been physically harmed by any person other than the juvenile's parent, guardian, custodian, or caretaker, initiate a criminal investigation. Upon completion of the investigation, the district attorney shall determine whether criminal prosecution is appropriate.

If the director of the Department of Social Services finds evidence that a juvenile has been abused or neglected in a child care facility, the director shall immediately so notify the Department of Health and Human Services and, in the case of sexual abuse, the State Bureau of Investigation, in such a way as does not violate the law guaranteeing the confidentiality of the records of the Department of Social Services.

NORTH DAKOTA***N.D. Cent. Code § 50-25.1-05 (Lexis, WESTLAW through End of 1999 Reg. Sess.)***

The department, in accordance with rules adopted by the Department, immediately shall initiate an assessment, or cause an assessment, of any report of child abuse or neglect including, when appropriate, the assessment of the home or the residence of the child, any school or child care facility attended by the child, and the circumstances surrounding the report of abuse or neglect. If the report alleges a violation of a criminal statute involving sexual or physical abuse, the department and an appropriate law enforcement agency shall coordinate the planning and execution of their investigation efforts to avoid a duplication of fact-finding efforts and multiple interviews.

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS***NMI Commonwealth Code tit. 6, § 5313(b) (1999)***

The Department of Public Safety shall promptly notify the office of the Attorney General and the Division of Youth Services of all reported cases of child abuse, neglect and sexual molestation. This notification shall be within 24 hours.

OHIO***Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2151.421(D), (F) (West, WESTLAW through 2003 portion of 125th Gen. Assem.)***

When a municipal or county peace officer receives a report concerning the possible abuse or neglect of a child or the possible threat of abuse or neglect of a child, upon receipt of the report, the municipal or county peace officer who receives the report shall refer the report to the appropriate public children services agency.

When a public children services agency receives a report pursuant to the reporting laws, upon receipt of the report, the public children services agency shall comply with § 2151.422.

Except as provided by statute, the public children services agency shall investigate, within 24 hours, each report of known or suspected child abuse or child neglect and of a known or suspected threat of child abuse or child neglect that is referred to it to determine the circumstances surrounding the injuries, abuse, or neglect or the threat of injury, abuse, or neglect, the cause of the injuries, abuse, neglect, or threat, and the person or persons responsible. The investigation shall be made in cooperation with the law enforcement agency.

The public children services agency shall report each case to a central registry which the State Department of Job and Family Services shall maintain in order to determine whether prior reports have been made in other counties concerning the child or other principals in the case. The public children services agency shall submit a report of its investigation, in writing, to the law enforcement agency.

The public children services agency shall make any recommendations to the county prosecuting attorney or city director of law that it considers necessary to protect any children that are brought to its attention.

OKLAHOMA***Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 10, § 7003-1.1(B)-(C) (West, WESTLAW through 2001 1st Ex. Sess.)***

If, after the assessment or investigation, the department determines that:

- An alleged abuse or neglect of a child was perpetrated by someone other than a person responsible for the child's health, safety or welfare; and
- An alleged abuse or neglect of a child does not appear to be attributable to failure on the part of a person responsible for the child's health, safety or welfare to provide protection for the child, the department shall immediately verbally notify an appropriate local law enforcement agency for the purpose of conducting a possible criminal investigation. The verbal notification to the local law enforcement agency shall be followed by a written referral transmitted no later than the close of the next business day.

The department shall determine whether the alleged perpetrator is a parent of any child or is otherwise a person responsible for the child's health, safety or welfare. If the alleged perpetrator is determined to be a parent of a child or is otherwise a person responsible for the child's health, safety or welfare, such determination shall constitute reasonable grounds to conduct an assessment or investigation regarding such child pursuant the reporting laws. After making the referral to the law enforcement agency, the department shall not be responsible for further investigation of the case unless:

- Notice is received from the law enforcement agency as provided by law;
- The alleged perpetrator is a person responsible for the child's health, safety or welfare; or
- The appropriate law enforcement agency requests the department, in writing, to participate in the investigation. If funds and personnel are available, as determined by the Director of Human Services, the Department may assist in the investigation of physical or sexual abuse of a child perpetrated by a person other than the parent or person responsible for the health, safety or welfare of the child.

Any law enforcement agency receiving a referral as provided in this section shall provide the Department of Human Services' local child welfare office with a copy of the report of its investigation resulting from a referral from the department or shall provide a written statement as to why a criminal investigation was not conducted.

Whenever, in the course of any criminal investigation, a law enforcement agency determines that there is cause to believe that a child may be or is alleged to be abused, neglected or deprived by reason of the acts or omissions of a person responsible for the health, safety or welfare of the child or the failure on the part of a person responsible for the child's health, safety or welfare to provide protection for the child, the law enforcement agency shall immediately verbally contact the local child welfare office for the purpose of an investigation by that office.

The verbal notification to the local child welfare office shall be followed by a written referral to the Department of Human Services no later than the close of the next business day.

OREGON

Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 419B.015 (WESTLAW through End of 1999 Reg. Sess.)

When a report is received by the Department of Human Services, the department shall immediately notify a law enforcement agency within the county where the report was made.

When a report is received by a designee of the department, the designee shall notify, according to the contract, either the department or a law enforcement agency within the county where the report was made. When a report is received by a law enforcement agency, the agency shall immediately notify the local office of the department within the county where the report was made.

PENNSYLVANIA

23 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. § 6365(c) (West, WESTLAW through Act 2002-237)

The county agency and the district attorney shall develop a protocol for the convening of investigative teams for any case of child abuse involving crimes against children which are set forth in section 6340(a)(9) and (10) (relating to release of information in confidential reports). The county protocol shall include standards and procedures to be used in receiving and referring reports and coordinating investigations of reported cases of child abuse and a system for sharing the information obtained as a result of any interview. The protocol shall include any other standards and procedures to avoid duplication of fact-finding efforts and interviews to minimize the trauma to the child.

The district attorney shall convene an investigative team in accordance with the protocol. The investigative team shall consist of those individuals and agencies responsible for investigating the abuse or for providing services to the child and shall at minimum include a health care provider, county caseworker and law enforcement official.

PUERTO RICO

P.R. Laws Ann. tit. 8, § 442h (Lexis, WESTLAW through Dec. 2000)

For the purposes of this chapter, the regional and local offices and the operational components of the department, as well as the agencies of the Government of Puerto Rico, shall be bound to give priority to the situations of abuse, institutional abuse, abuse through neglect and/or abuse through institutional neglect of minors, and shall coordinate their efforts when rendering services related to the identification, prevention or treatment of minor victims of abuse, institutional abuse, abuse through neglect and/or abuse through institutional neglect, is required.

RHODE ISLAND

R. I. Gen. Laws § 40-11-7(f) (1997)

In the event that after investigation the department has reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child has been subjected to criminal abuse or neglect, the department shall forward immediately any information as it relates to that knowledge or suspicion to the law enforcement agency.

R. I. Gen. Laws § 40-11-9 (1997)

Upon the receipt of a report concerning the alleged abuse or neglect of a child, it shall be the duty of the law enforcement agency to investigate further and to report the results of the investigation to the department and/or family court; provided, however, if there is reasonable cause to believe that a crime has been committed the law enforcement agency shall report the result of the investigation to the department of attorney general.

SOUTH CAROLINA

S.C. Code Ann. § 20-7-510(D), (E) (WESTLAW through S.C. 2003 Legis. Serv., Act 2)

Where reports are made pursuant to this section to a law enforcement agency, the law enforcement agency shall notify the county Department of Social Services of the law enforcement's response to the report at the earliest possible time.

Where a county or contiguous counties have established multi-county child protective services, the county Department of Social Services immediately shall transfer reports pursuant to this section to the service.

When the department refers a report to a law enforcement agency for a criminal investigation, the department must inform the law enforcement agency of the identity of the person who reported the child abuse or neglect. The identity of the reporter must only be used by the law enforcement agency to further the criminal investigation arising from the report, and the agency must not disclose the reporter's identity to any person other than an employee of the agency who is involved in the criminal investigation arising from the report. If the reporter testifies in a criminal proceeding arising from the report, it must not be disclosed that the reporter made the report.

When a law enforcement agency refers a report to the department for an investigation or other response, the law enforcement agency must inform the department of the identity of the person who reported the child abuse or neglect. The department must not disclose the identity of the reporter to any person except as authorized by law.

SOUTH DAKOTA

S.D. Codified Laws § 26-8A-8 (Michie 1992)

The reports required from mandated reporters by the reporting laws shall be made orally and immediately by telephone or otherwise to the State's attorney of the county in which the child resides or is present, to the Department of Social Services or to law enforcement officers.

The State's attorney or law enforcement officers, upon receiving a report, shall immediately notify the Department of Social Services. Any person receiving a report of suspected child abuse or child neglect shall keep the report confidential as provided by statute.

TENNESSEE

Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-403(d) (West, WESTLAW through End of 2001 1st Reg. Sess.)

If a law enforcement official or judge becomes aware of known or suspected child abuse, through personal knowledge, receipt of a report, or otherwise, such information shall be reported to the Department of Children's Services immediately and, where appropriate, the child protective team shall be notified to investigate the report for the protection of the child in accordance with the provisions of this part. Further criminal investigation by such official shall be appropriately conducted in coordination with the team or Department to the maximum extent possible.

Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-605(b)(2) (West, WESTLAW through End of 2001 1st Reg. Sess.)

If a law enforcement official or judge becomes aware of known or suspected child sexual abuse, through personal knowledge, receipt of a report or otherwise, such information shall be reported to the Department of Children's Services immediately and the child protective team shall be notified to investigate the report for the protection of the child in accordance with the provisions of this part. Further criminal investigation by such official shall be appropriately conducted.

Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-405(a), (b)(1)-(2) (1996)

All cases reported to the juvenile court judge or to state or local law enforcement officers shall be referred immediately to the local director of the county office of the Department of Children's Services for investigation.

If the court or law enforcement officer finds that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the child is suffering from illness or injury or is in immediate danger from the child's surroundings and that the child's removal is necessary, appropriate protective action shall be taken.

The county office of the Department of Children's Services or the office of the sheriff or the chief law enforcement official of the municipality where the child resides, upon receipt of a report of harm or sexual abuse, shall give notice of the report to the judge having juvenile jurisdiction where the child resides.

If the case appears to involve severe child abuse, including child sexual abuse, the county director of the Department of Children's Services shall immediately notify and consult with the district attorney general where the harm occurred, and the district attorney general may take such action as the district attorney general deems appropriate, including petitioning the court for removal of the child or termination of parental rights.

TEXAS

Tex. Fam. Code Ann. § 261.105 (West Supp. 1999)

All reports received by a local or State law enforcement agency that allege abuse or neglect by a person responsible for a child's care, custody, or welfare shall be referred immediately to the department or the designated agency.

The department or designated agency shall immediately notify the appropriate State or local law enforcement agency of any report it receives, other than a report from a law enforcement agency, that concerns the suspected abuse or neglect of a child or death of a child from abuse or neglect.

In addition to notifying a law enforcement agency, if the report relates to a child in a facility operated, licensed, certified, or registered by a State agency, the department shall refer the report to the agency for investigation.

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

In cooperation with the department, the Texas Youth Commission by rule shall adopt guidelines for identifying a report made to the commission that is appropriate to refer to the department or a law enforcement agency for investigation. Guidelines adopted under this subsection must require the commission to consider the severity and immediacy of the alleged abuse or neglect of the child victim.

Tex. Fam. Code Ann. § 261.1055 (West Supp. 1999)

A district attorney may inform the department or designated agency that the district attorney wishes to receive notification of some or all reports of suspected abuse or neglect of children who were in the county at the time the report was made or who were in the county at the time of the alleged abuse or neglect.

If the district attorney makes the notification under this section, the department or designated agency shall on receipt of a report of suspected abuse or neglect immediately notify the district attorney as requested and the department or designated agency shall forward a copy of the reports to the district attorney on request.

UTAH

Utah Code Ann. § 62A-4a-408 (WESTLAW through 2001 1st Sp. Sess.)

On receipt of this notice [of suspected child abuse or neglect], the peace officer or law enforcement agency shall immediately notify the nearest office of the Division of Child and Family Services.

If an initial report of child abuse or neglect is made to the division, the division shall immediately notify the appropriate local law enforcement agency. The division shall, in addition to its own investigation, comply with and lend support to investigations by law enforcement undertaken pursuant to a report made under the reporting laws.

VERMONT***Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 33, § 4918(a) (WESTLAW through 2000 Reg. Sess.)***

Multidisciplinary teams shall assist local district offices of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services in identifying and treating child abuse and neglect cases. With respect to any case referred to it, the team shall assist the district office by providing:

- Case diagnosis or identification;
- A comprehensive treatment plan;
- Coordination of services pursuant to the treatment plan.

VIRGIN ISLANDS***V.I. Code Ann. tit. 5, § 2534(a) (WESTLAW through 2002 Sess.)***

Reports of child abuse, sexual abuse or neglect made pursuant to the reporting laws shall be made immediately by telephone or otherwise to the U.S. Virgin Islands Police Department (V.I.P.D.) or to the Department of Social Welfare. The V.I.P.D. shall relay such reports to the Department of Social Welfare immediately or, at the latest, at the commencement of the next regular office hours of the Department of Social Welfare. At the request of the Department of Social Welfare, an oral report shall be followed by a written report within 48 hours.

V.I. Code Ann. tit. 5, § 2536(f) (WESTLAW through 2002 Sess.)

The U.S. Virgin Islands Police Department (V.I.P.D.) shall, on its own initiative where appropriate or at the request of the Department of Social Welfare, investigate reports of alleged child abuse, sexual abuse or neglect, and shall convey the results of such investigation to the Department of Social Welfare and, where a petition or complaint has been filed, to the Territorial Court. If the report of child abuse or neglect involves the acts or omissions of the Department of Social Welfare, the V.I.P.D. shall investigate such report and shall convey the results of such report to the Department of Law, which shall take appropriate action.

VIRGINIA***Va. Code Ann. § 63.2-1507 (West, WESTLAW through End of 2002 Reg. Sess.)***

All law enforcement departments and other state and local departments, agencies, authorities and institutions shall cooperate with each child-protective services coordinator of a local department and any multi-discipline teams in the detection and prevention of child abuse.

WASHINGTON

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 26.44.030(4), (5) (West, WESTLAW through End of 2002 Reg. Sess.)

The Department, upon receiving a report of an incident of alleged abuse or neglect involving a child who has died or has had physical injury or injuries inflicted upon him or her other than by accidental means or who has been subjected to alleged sexual abuse, shall report such incident to the proper law enforcement agency. In emergency cases, where the child's welfare is endangered, the Department shall notify the proper law enforcement agency within 24 hours after a report is received by the Department. In all other cases, the Department shall notify the law enforcement agency within 72 hours after a report is received by the Department. If the Department makes an oral report, a written report shall also be made to the proper law enforcement agency within five days thereafter.

Any law enforcement agency receiving a report of an incident of alleged abuse or neglect involving a child who has died or has had physical injury or injuries inflicted upon him or her other than by accidental means, or who has been subjected to alleged sexual abuse, shall report such incident in writing as to the proper county prosecutor or city attorney for appropriate action whenever the law enforcement agency's investigation reveals that a crime may have been committed. The law enforcement agency shall also notify the Department of all reports received and the law enforcement agency's disposition of them. In emergency cases, where the child's welfare is endangered, the law enforcement agency shall notify the Department within 24 hours. In all other cases, the law enforcement agency shall notify the Department within 72 hours after a report is received by the law enforcement agency.

WEST VIRGINIA

W. Va. Code Ann. § 49-6A-2 (West, WESTLAW through W.V. through 2003 Legis. Serv., Ch. 64)

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

WISCONSIN

Wis. Stat. Ann. § 48.981(3)(a), (bm) (West, WESTLAW through 2003 Act 2)

The sheriff or police department shall within 12 hours, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays or legal holidays, refer to the county department or, in a county having a population of 500,000 or more, the department or a licensed child welfare agency under contract with the department all cases reported to it. The county department, department or licensed child welfare agency may require that a subsequent report be made in writing.

A county department, the department, or licensed child welfare agency under contract with the department shall within 12 hours, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays, refer to the sheriff or police department all cases of suspected or threatened abuse reported to it. For cases of suspected or threatened abuse or neglect, each county department, the department and a licensed child welfare agency under contract with the department shall adopt a written policy specifying the kinds of reports it will routinely report to local law enforcement authorities.

If the report is of suspected or threatened abuse, the sheriff or police department and the county department, the Department, or licensed child welfare agency under contract with the department shall coordinate the planning and execution of the investigation of the report.

In a county which has wholly or partially within its boundaries a federally recognized Indian reservation or a bureau of Indian affairs service area for the Ho-Chunk tribe, if a county department which receives a report pertaining to a child or unborn child knows that the child is an Indian child who resides in the county or that the unborn child is an Indian unborn child whose expectant mother resides in the county, the county department shall provide notice, which shall consist only of the name and address of the child or expectant mother and the fact that a report has been received about that child or unborn child, within 24 hours to one of the following:

- If the county department knows with which tribe or band the child is affiliated, or with which tribe or band the unborn child, when born, may be eligible for affiliation, and it is a Wisconsin tribe or band, the tribal agent of that tribe or band;
- If the county department does not know with which tribe or band the child is affiliated, or with which tribe or band the unborn child, when born, may be eligible for affiliation, or the child or expectant mother is not affiliated with a Wisconsin tribe or band, the tribal agent serving the reservation or Ho-Chunk service area where the child where the child or expectant mother resides;
- If neither of the above applies, any tribal agent serving a reservation or Ho-Chunk service area in the county.

WYOMING

Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 14-3-206(a) (Michie 1997)

Reports of child abuse or neglect or of suspected child abuse or neglect made to the local child protective agency or local law enforcement agency shall be followed by a written report confirming or not confirming the facts reported. A written report may be dispensed with for good cause shown.

Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 14-3-204(a)(vi)-(vii) (Michie Supp. 1999)

The local child protective agency shall cooperate, coordinate and assist with the prosecution and law enforcement agencies in investigating a report of suspected child abuse or neglect. When the best interests of the child requires court actions, the agency shall contact the county and prosecuting attorney to initiate legal proceedings and assist the county and prosecuting attorney during the proceedings.