

SAFE MINISTRY PROGRAM

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MANUAL

MARCH 2017



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Children and Family Manual

DIOCESE OF WESTERN ANGLICANS
ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

March 2017

My friends and co-workers for the Harvest in the Kingdom of God,

Grace and peace in Jesus Christ who is Lord of all!

This policy manual has been prepared with care because we serve the purposes of God in and among God's people and we are stewards of the people He entrusts to our care. People seek Jesus among us and He spoke about the nature of His shepherding in plain terms:

"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd." (John 10:9-11a)

It is the thief who seeks to kill and destroy, but we are called to 'hear the voice of Jesus' (John 10:14) and 'build one another up in love and good deeds' (1Thess 5:13b-15). Consequently, there is no higher work we may do than to foster an environment for the health and well-being of those who seek Jesus in our midst. If it is true for adults, how much more is it true for children and those who are vulnerable to predation and abuse. Jesus warned those He loves:

"Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come. It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin. So watch yourselves." (Luke 17:1b-3a)

I invite you to read this policy manual with care and devote whatever energies are required for you to implement it. This thoughtful and comprehensive policy sets forth 'best practices' and other requirements and standards for the protection of children and youth who are participating in the various ministries of our diocese. It is the cumulative result of the wisdom of experts in the field, as well as, legal counsel and the wisdom of youth and children's ministry directors.

The reasons for such a policy are, unfortunately, manifold. The rates of child abuse are horrific, and over 90% of juvenile sex abuse victims know their abuser in some way. Consistently, child abuse is the greatest single reason for litigation against churches. Since it is impossible to identify a potential abuser by sight, the Church must intentionally provide our children and youth with boundaries that will protect and nurture them as they grow and mature in their faith in Jesus Christ.

If you find anything in the manual that does not allow you to conduct your ministry with effectiveness, please contact the diocesan Safe Ministry Advocate who is charged with encouraging and strengthening our efforts to promote safety among all of our congregations and church plants. Should it be possible to adapt a provision or practice to better suit local ministry needs, we will do all we can to do so, with the advice and counsel of the Chancellor, Bishop and President of the Diocese. The Diocesan Safe Ministry Advocate is the Rev. Caleb Hummel and he may be contacted at: smadvocate@westernanglicans.org.

I am your servant and partner in the gospel,



M. Keith Andrews, bishop

State Reporting Contact Information

For quick reference to report incidents of abuse, see below.

→ ***SEE APPENDICES B through I for State Specific Reporting and Penal Codes*** ←

Arizona
Child Abuse Reporting Contact Number and Website

1-888-SOS-CHILD
<https://dcs.az.gove/report-child-abuse-or-neglect>

California
Child Abuse Reporting Contact Numbers By County

Orange 714-940-1000 800-207-4464	Los Angeles 800-540-4000	Riverside 800-442-4918
San Bernardino 909-384-9233 800-827-8724	San Diego 858-560-2191 800-344-6000	

Idaho
Child Abuse Reporting Contact Number and Website

1-855-552-KIDS
<http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Children/AbuseNeglect/tabid/74/Default.aspx>

Montana
Child Abuse Reporting Contact Number and Website

1-866-820-5437
<http://dphhs.mt.gov/CFSD>

Nevada
Child Abuse Reporting Contact Number

1-800-992-5757

Utah
Child Abuse Reporting Contact Number

1-855-323-DCFS

Wyoming
Child Abuse Reporting Contact Number

1-800-78-CRIME

Washington
Child Abuse Reporting Contact Number and Website

1-866-END-HARM
<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/child-safety-and-protection/how-report-child-abuse-or-neglect>

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Biblical Foundation and Purpose

The Diocese of Western Anglicans accepts with deep gratitude and seriousness the trust given us by God to nurture and care for his people, especially those who are most vulnerable and in need of protection. This is nowhere more true than when caring for our children and youth. Current statistics regarding child abuse are alarming. One in every three to four girls and one in every six to eight boys are sexually abused before age eighteen. Physical and emotional abuses continue to be serious problems in our society. The effects of such abuse can damage children at the core of who they are, and often follow them into adulthood. Abused children are children at risk. They often become adults who suffer from low self-esteem, who are unable to form and keep healthy relationships, and who struggle to maintain healthy boundaries. As the Church, we declare that we will work together to see that the proper love and care are extended to the children entrusted to us.

Jesus teaches explicitly that children are of much value in Kingdom terms, and that to cause one to sin has the gravest of consequences. Caring for our children and youth is a sacred trust.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea." (Matthew 18:1-6 ESV)

Mark, in his Gospel account, adds the dimension of Jesus taking the children in his arms and blessing them (Mark 10:16).

As Christian adults we are called to establish a secure environment where the perfect love of God works to cast out all fear (1 John 4:18) and the nurture and love of God are made known to all, and in particular to our children and youth. In this way we can fulfill the biblical mandate to train up our children in the way they should go (Proverbs 22:6).

The purpose of this document is to give instruction to the clergy, vestry, paid staff and unpaid member ministers at congregations or church plants of the Diocese of Western Anglicans that will inform our decisions and methods with regard to safeguarding the children and youth entrusted to us and instruct us, providing minimum standards of care and vigilance.

We request that all paid and unpaid ministers of the Gospel who work with any children or youth under the age of 18 know the content of this manual well, and review it at least once per year.

May God be glorified in all we do.

Leadership in our Diocese for Maintaining a Safe Environment for Children and Youth

The Diocesan Commitment to Protect Children

The Bishop in consultation with the President and Executive Committee of the diocese is responsible for the creation and promulgation of the diocesan Policy for the Protection of Children and Youth, under the authority and oversight of the President and Executive Committee and the Bishop in accordance with the Canons of the Diocese.

The Bishop, President and Executive Committee of the Diocese will from time to time update and revise the Policy in light of practical experiences, medical and other scholarly research, legal developments, and other relevant considerations.

Responsibility for this Policy

The Rector and the Vestry share the overall responsibility for the administration of this policy within the church they lead and for providing all reports requested by the Diocese. They may delegate these duties and each congregation or church plant shall have a Local Safe Ministry Advocate from within the congregation or church plant who will execute the process of reporting to the diocese. This Local Safe Ministry Coordinator will work with the Diocesan Safe Ministry Advocate in these matters, making certain the congregation or church plant is in compliance with the diocesan Safe Ministry policy. If ever you are in doubt about who is in charge of overseeing child protection in your environment, ask your supervisor or your congregation or church plant's Local Safe Ministry Coordinator, as we want all child and youth workers to be confident they know to whom they should direct their questions and reports.

Diocesan Policy on Child Abuse

The Diocese will not tolerate any form of child abuse involving our clergy, paid staff or unpaid member ministers or other persons. Everyone who serves the church through educational, pastoral, recreational or other activities are expected to maintain the highest biblical standards in relationships with those to whom they minister, avoiding any form of misconduct against children. That commitment extends to sexual behavior.

No one in the service of the Diocese or its churches who has a civil or criminal record of child abuse, or who has admitted committing prior sexual abuse of a child, will be permitted to serve with children or youth.

We are also committed to providing pastoral care to all involved with, and/or affected by, instances of child abuse. Pastoral care grows out of Christ-centered relationships and proceeds with an awareness of the spiritual and emotional needs of both the individual and the community. It may include providing guidance, support, consolation, and even confrontation in an effort to minister as we believe God would desire.

Child Abuse Defined

Child abuse, in practical terms, refers to an act committed by a parent, caregiver or person in a position of trust (even though he/she may not care for the child on a daily basis) which is not accidental and which harms or threatens to harm a child's physical or mental health or welfare. Each state has its own definition of what constitutes "child abuse" under civil and criminal laws, and each church in the Diocese should be familiar with the relevant laws and legal definitions in its jurisdiction (See Appendices B through I). In general, the definitions of "child abuse" and "child neglect" in all states in our Diocese include the following elements (among others):

- + Physical abuse
- + Neglect (both physical and mental)
- + Sexual abuse/Exploitation

For specific definitions of child abuse and reporting procedures in your state, review the state law insert included with this policy manual.

Minimum Standard

The Diocese and your congregation or church plant are committed to protecting children in ministry by having policies in place that cover each of these issues

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This minimum standard applies even if there are no children currently in attendance at church events.



**Screening Procedures for Interns, Clergy, Paid Staff and Unpaid Member Ministers
at Congregation, Church Plant and Emergent Work Events and Day Camps,
Wherever Children or Youth Are Present**

By the time you get this, you will very likely have been through an extensive screening process that included the following activities:

- + There was a six month minimum attendance rule for unpaid member ministers in children's and youth ministries, except where the Bishop, in consultation with the President and Executive Committee has granted a variance.
- + You completed an application for those working in youth and children's ministries.
- + You underwent a National Sexual Offender Registry and Criminal Background check. These checks are renewed no less often than:
 - Clergy – every three years
 - Paid staff and unpaid member ministers – every three years
- + The congregation or church plant made personal reference checks.
- + You had a face-to-face interview.
- + The congregation or church plant required each applicant to state whether or not the applicant and/or other members of the household have been arrested for, or convicted of, any crime involving child abuse and/or neglect, or had any such conviction expunged; been charged with child sexual abuse in a civil proceeding; committed an act of child sexual abuse; or (except where such inquiry is prohibited or limited by applicable laws or regulations) been diagnosed with any paraphiliac psychological condition, as defined by the American Psychiatric Association, including, but not limited to, pedophilia, voyeurism, or exhibitionism.

We undertake this so that we can have the greatest assurance that we are assembling and monitoring those who work with children to have the highest degree of protection for them.

Training Procedures

Training is also an important deterrent to child abuse. As a minister of the Gospel to children or youth, you are trained to recognize the warning signs of potential abuse, as well as learn the procedures for reporting suspected abuse. You must also become familiar with safe practices specific to your congregation, church plant or emergent work designed to reduce the potential for abuse occurring. The Diocese requires the following training:

Reading Requirements

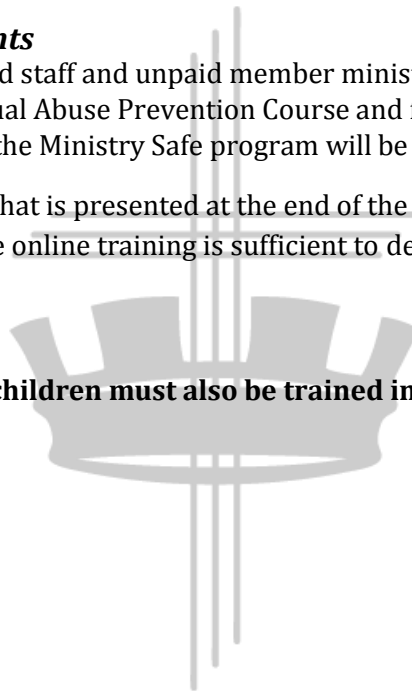
All members of the clergy, all members of the vestry, and those staff members with direct supervision over youth or children must certify that they have read, understood and accepted the Diocese of Western Anglicans policies on the Protection of Children and Youth. The acknowledgement for is included in Appendix A.

Workshop Attendance Requirements

Every two years, clergy, vestry, and paid staff and unpaid member ministers who have contact with youth and children must complete the online Sexual Abuse Prevention Course and follow-up test provided by Ministry Safe. Instructions on the implementation of the Ministry Safe program will be provided to you by the Rector.

A copy of the certificate of completion that is presented at the end of the diocesan-approved workshop or the proof of completion of the Ministry Safe online training is sufficient to demonstrate compliance with this requirement.

All who have contact with youth and children must also be trained in safe practices specific to their church.



Interacting Procedures

These procedures help children and adults feel safe in ministry and help detect problems before they turn into an incident of abuse.

Communication

Verbal interactions between clergy, paid staff or unpaid member ministers with children should be positive and uplifting. Staff members and member ministers should strive to keep verbal interactions encouraging, constructive, and mindful of their mission of aiding parents in the spiritual growth and development of children.

To this end, clergy, paid staff and unpaid member ministers should avoid talking to children or parents in a way that is or could be construed by any reasonable observer as harsh, threatening, intimidating, shaming, derogatory, demeaning, or humiliating. In addition, clergy, paid staff and unpaid member ministers are expected to refrain from using profanity or coarse words in the presence of children. Concerns about children should be directed to parents, legal guardians, the appropriate ministry leader, or the clergy.

Clergy, paid staff and unpaid member ministers should avoid engaging in any sexually-oriented communications with children, (except as noted in the following section in educational or abuse-reporting contexts), and should refrain from discussing any inappropriate or explicit information about their own personal relationships, dating, or sexual activities with any child.

Clergy, paid staff or unpaid member ministers should report any sexually-oriented communications involving a child to the appropriate ministry leader or clergy.

Clergy, staff members, member ministers and participants in youth and children's ministries should refrain from the use, possession, or being under the influence of tobacco products, alcohol, or any illegal drugs while in church facilities, while traveling with or in the presence of children or their parents, during church-sponsored activities, or while working with or supervising children.

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Sexually-Oriented Materials

Paid staff or unpaid member ministers may employ (subject to limitations imposed by the Rector or Rector's designee) age-appropriate materials when leading discussions dealing with human sexuality/sexual abuse prevention/sexual purity. Any prospective material should normally be made available for review for the parents of participants. Prior to introducing these materials, notice should normally be provided to parents in order to allow an opt-out should there be concerns or objections.

Social Media

Facebook and all social media avenues are important ways for youth ministry staff and leaders to connect with students. Their world is often constructed around social media, for better or worse. Having personal interactions in this venue allows adults to model appropriate behavior in social media, and it forms valuable connections with students.

Clergy, paid staff or unpaid member ministers shall refrain from connecting with students on social media when students are younger than the minimum age as established by each social media outlet (for example, Facebook's minimum age is currently 13).

Photography

Please refrain from taking photos where children are present as distribution of such photographs can be problematic. If photos are taken at a service or event where children are present, please consult the Rector and Wardens manual for guidance on their use. No photograph of any child or youth may be used or shown to anyone without written consent by the parents/guardians.

Physical Interaction

Physical contact should be for the benefit of the child, and never be based upon the emotional needs of paid staff or an unpaid member minister. It is the diocesan policy that paid staff or unpaid member ministers are prohibited from using physical discipline in any manner for behavioral management of children. No form of physical discipline is acceptable.

This prohibition includes spanking, slapping, pinching, hitting, or any other physical force as retaliation or correction for inappropriate behaviors by children. Children are to be disciplined using time-outs and other non-physical methods of behavior management. In some circumstances physical restraint may be used to prevent self-injury by the child and/or harm to others or to property. Uncontrollable or unusual behavior should be reported immediately to parents, the Children's Ministry Director, Youth Pastor, Senior Warden and/or clergy.

Those who serve, whether as clergy or lay workers, paid staff or unpaid member ministers, maintain a powerful relationship of authority and trust with the people to whom they minister. Betrayal of that trust through violation of sexual boundaries causes great emotional and spiritual harm. Such misconduct is a denial of our calling as Christians and may be a violation of the law. We must take every step to prevent it, and to respond at the earliest opportunity with swift justice should misconduct occur.

The following standards of interaction with children shall be carefully followed at all times:

1. **Appropriate physical affection between paid or unpaid staff members and children is important for children's development, and is generally suitable in the church setting.**
 - Appropriate physical affection includes:
 - + high-fives
 - + handshakes
 - + fist bumps
 - + thumbs up
 - + head pat
 - + side hug
 - + smiling
 - + pats on the back
 - Inappropriate physical affection includes:
 - + wrestling
 - + tickling
 - + sitting in laps (except for nursery-aged children)
 - + kissing on the lips
 - + full frontal hugs (except spontaneous hugs initiated by children)
 - + commenting on children's bodies
 - + forcing unwanted affection
2. **Inappropriate touching and inappropriate displays of affection are forbidden.** Any inappropriate behavior or suspected abuse by paid staff or an unpaid member minister must be reported immediately to the appropriate authority. Please review the state law insert to determine if you are required by law to report suspected abuse directly to the State. If you are not a mandatory reporter, reports of suspected abuse must be made to 1) an immediate supervisor, and 2) the Senior Warden and/or clergy.
3. **Physical contact and affection should be given only in observable places.** It is much less likely that touch will be inappropriate or misinterpreted when physical contact is open to observation.
4. **Physical contact in any form should not give even the appearance of wrongdoing.** The personal behavior of paid staff or unpaid member ministers with Youth and Children's Ministries must foster trust at all times. Personal conduct must be above reproach.

5. **Do not force physical contact, touch, or affection on a reluctant child.** A child or youth's preference not to be touched must be respected at all times.
6. **Children and Youth paid staff members and unpaid member ministers are responsible for protecting children under their supervision from inappropriate or unwanted touch by others.**

Restroom Use

Nursery-Aged and Special Needs Children

Because nursery and special needs children may require complete assistance with their bathroom activities, all paid staff members and unpaid member ministers will observe the following policies:

Diapering

- + Only screened and trained nursery workers or the child's parent or legal guardian will undertake the diapering of children of either sex.¹
- + Changing of diapers should be done in plain sight of other nursery workers; children should not be left unattended while being changed.
- + Children should be re-diapered and re-clothed immediately upon the completion of changing the soiled diaper.

Toilet Training

- + No child will be forced to toilet train.
- + Only screened and trained nursery workers or the child's parent or legal guardian will participate in toilet training efforts with children.
- + When children are assisted in bathrooms the stall door will be left partially open.
- + Preschool-aged children will never be left unattended in bathrooms.
- + Children should be assisted in straightening their clothing before returning to the room with other children.
- + "Accidents" should be handled by reassuring the child and completing the changing of diapers or underwear and clothing.

Elementary-Aged Children

- + Elementary-age children may be accompanied to the restroom for supervision and assistance when

¹ Churches are encouraged to be sensitive to the fact that nationally one out of every three to four women has been the victim of some form of child sexual abuse, typically by a male offender. It is well documented by researchers that there are certain times in the lives of abuse survivors when they are more prone to triggers (internal or external reminders of the trauma). The birth of a child is often such a trigger. To build trust, churches may determine that diapering, toilet training and restroom monitoring will only be done by screened and trained female staff (paid or unpaid) or the child's parent/guardian.

needed. (However, children should receive the minimum amount of assistance needed based upon their individual capabilities.) A same-aged-peer buddy system may also be used.

- + Paid staff members and unpaid member ministers should take steps to avoid being alone with one child in the restroom. If a paid staff member or unpaid member minister must go into the restroom to check on an individual child, he or she should seek out another worker to accompany him/her. If another worker is not available to accompany, he/she should go to the exterior bathroom door, knock, and ask if the child needs assistance. If the child requires assistance, the worker should leave the exterior bathroom door open when entering the bathroom area and try verbally to assist the child in completing his/her activities, while the child remains behind the door of the bathroom stall.

First Aid and Medication

If possible, medication should be administered by the child's parent. Medication may be given to a child by a paid or unpaid staff member as authorized by the parent. The medication must be in the original packaging, including over-the-counter medication. It is preferable to have written instructions from the parents giving the dosage and time limits. If the parent has not done so, the paid staff member or unpaid member minister should offer to write down the instructions and have the parent sign their approval.

When medically necessary, medication or first aid may be given to a child by a paid staff member or unpaid member minister consistent with the Supervisory Plan. Parents should be notified whenever medication or first aid has been administered.

The Release of Children

Any time that a child has been entrusted to paid church staff members or unpaid member ministers, the church incurs responsibility for the safety and well-being of the child. Paid staff members and unpaid member ministers must act to ensure the appropriate supervision and safety of children in their charge.

Children's Ministries paid staff and unpaid member ministers are responsible for releasing children in their care at the close of services or activities only to parents, legal guardians, or other persons designated by parents or legal guardians. It is presumed that a person who drops off a child or student has authority to pick up the child. It is preferable to have written instructions from the parents giving the name of any individual authorized to pick up the child. If the parent has not done so, the paid staff member or unpaid member minister should offer to write down the instructions and have the parent sign their approval.

In the event that paid staff members or unpaid member ministers are uncertain of the propriety of releasing a child, they should immediately contact their immediate supervisor before releasing the child.

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Transportation

Paid staff members or unpaid member ministers may from time to time be in a position to provide transportation for children and/or youth. The following guidelines should be strictly observed when workers are involved in the transportation of children and/or youth:

- + Adults (paid staff members or unpaid member ministers must provide to the church copies of valid driver's licenses, vehicle registration, and proof of insurance.
- + Use of child safety seats that meet federal standards is required. Drivers and passengers must also follow airbag age/weight regulations per specific vehicle guidelines.
- + At no time shall there be one adult and one child or youth traveling in a vehicle (except in a parent/child or other familial situation). Automobiles will contain either one driver and two or more participants or two adults and any number of children (within the seat belt limitations of the vehicle; seatbelts are ALWAYS required). If there is an extenuating circumstance causing only one adult and one child or youth to travel together in an automobile, permission must be obtained by a parent or legal guardian of the child. This permission should be written and signed by the parent/guardian or documented by the paid staff member or unpaid member minister if only verbal consent is obtainable. The child or youth should be transported in the back seat of the vehicle in such circumstances.
- + The use of a cell phone will be limited to that which promotes safe usage with a hands-free device and for urgent circumstances or a reason directly pertaining to the event or activity.
- + Children and youth should be transported directly to their destination. Unauthorized stops to a non-public place should be avoided. Stops for meals, refueling, and restroom breaks should be done as a group. Paid staff members and unpaid member ministers should avoid transportation circumstances that leave only one child or youth in transport.
- + Paid staff members and unpaid member ministers should avoid physical contact with children and youth while in vehicles.

Monitoring Procedures

Monitoring helps detect problems before they turn into an incident of abuse and helps adults avoid wrongful allegations of abuse where none has occurred. Research confirms that off-site activities increase the risk of abuse. Vestry, clergy, paid staff and unpaid member ministers must be diligent in monitoring and supervising children's and youth activities in all settings at all times.

Monitoring practices include, but are not limited to the following:

- + All children and youth activities shall be designed to be supervised by two or more screened and trained individuals. No child will ever be left unattended in the building or on the property during or following a church activity.
- + Clergy, paid staff members and unpaid member ministers should not conduct unobserved meetings or interactions with children.
- + In a discipleship or mentoring relationship, the interactions should take place in a public place or where other persons are present.
- + Watching for policy violations
- + An open invitation for parents to visit at any time unannounced
- + A careful review of new programs and/or significant changes to a program structure
- + Keeping interaction with children in full view of others at all times. Keeping unused rooms locked where possible
- + All meetings and interactions with children should be conducted in a room with an internal window that allows for constant observation of activities in the room at all times. Should such a room not be available, the door to the room should be open at all times so that all activities inside the room are visible from the hallway outside the room.
- + Keeping children and youth in supervised areas within the church building
- + Following the onsite or offsite supervisory plan for the specific activity in which you are involved

Responding and Reporting Procedures

State law require that certain categories of persons responsible for the care or treatment of children report to state authorities when there is reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected, or is in danger of abuse or neglect. The specific laws - and thus their specific requirements - vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. For this reason, a summary of state law has been included with this manual. Please review it carefully to determine who is required to report potential abuse and the procedures required by the State.

Every person responsible for the care of children and youth in the church must be aware of the applicable child abuse reporting requirements and procedures in that jurisdiction. Please carefully review the state-specific laws included with this policy manual.

Our jurisdiction resides in numerous states and will continue to increase. Please visit the following website:

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/laws-policies/state/>

Choose your state and any pertaining topics on which you need information.

The following section of the diocesan policy briefly outlines several response and reporting procedures:

1. Responding to the Child Victim
2. Reporting to Church Authorities and/or the State
3. Internal Church Communication and Reporting

1. Responding to the Child Victim

One of several ways in which the clergy, paid staff and unpaid member ministers may come to suspect child abuse or neglect is from information that a child himself or herself shares. ² If a child or youth discloses abuse or neglect, the clergy, paid staff member or unpaid member minister receiving such a communication should attempt to:

- + Respect the child or youth's privacy by finding an appropriate non-threatening place to talk.
- + If reasonably possible, ask a paid staff member or unpaid member minister or other responsible adult to join in listening to the child's/youth's account. ³
- + Keep calm, listen, and avoid expressing shock or outrage.
- + Let the child/youth know that he/she is believed.
- + Assure the child/youth that any abuse was not his/her fault.
- + If helpful, tell the child/youth that he/she was brave to disclose the abuse.
- + Child victims are often vague in their initial disclosure. Avoid questions that could make the child/youth feel responsible or plant ideas that could taint the child's recollection and account.
- + Write down as accurately as possible what the child/youth disclosed.
- + Be careful afterwards not to discuss the information with or in front of other people who do not need to know what happened. Discussion about the information should be limited to appropriate church and legal authorities, as discussed further below.

2. Reporting to Church Authorities and/or the State

Each church in the Diocese has in place appropriate internal procedures and mechanisms for reporting to appropriate church leaders any suspected child abuse or neglect, any other suspected mistreatment of or injury to a child or youth, and any suspicious information involving children or youth. Such internal reporting allows church leaders to determine whether a legal reporting obligation has been triggered, whether further information is needed, and/or whether pastoral or other care for children and others should be offered.

In some states, paid staff members and unpaid member ministers are classified as mandatory reporters. In those states where paid staff members or unpaid member ministers are mandatory reporters, they must make the report directly to the appropriate State authority and does not discharge their legal duty by reporting internally to the Rector or Bishop. Please refer to the state-specific reporting information included with this policy manual to determine who is a mandatory reporter.

At times, when the church leader receiving such reports puts together the separate pieces of information provided by different workers, the leader may discern a pattern or recognize information that triggers further

² Reasonable suspicion that a child is abused or neglected may also occur in other ways. For example, a perpetrator may confess such abuse or neglect to a clergy member, or a church worker may observe physical or behavioral indicators of abuse or neglect in a child.

³ However, at times the child's communication may occur so quickly and/or unexpectedly that there may not be time to involve another responsible adult.

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investigation and/or a report to state authorities. (Such internal church reporting procedures are not intended to supersede any applicable legal reporting requirements.)

When there is reason to believe child abuse or neglect has occurred or is occurring, act immediately. Do not ignore or fail to take seriously any reported incident.

If the individual making the report is not a mandatory reporter, the individual(s) suspecting abuse or neglect should immediately notify the Rector and Senior Warden (or another person designated by the Rector or Senior Warden or otherwise identified in the church's child abuse reporting procedures as authorized to receive such reports) of the suspected child abuse. If the individual making the report is a mandatory reporter, the individual should notify the appropriate State agency as listed in the state law insert included with this manual (page 4).

3. Internal Church Communication and Reporting

In addition to the reporting obligations discussed above, clergy, paid staff members and unpaid member ministers shall also promptly internally report to the appropriate ministry leader or clergy, an immediate supervisor, and/or to the Rector (or his/her designee) whenever the clergy, paid staff member or unpaid member minister:

- + Is involved in or becomes aware of any sexually-oriented communications involving a child connected with the church; or
- + Is involved in or becomes aware of any inappropriate behavior involving a child by a clergy person, paid staff member or unpaid member minister; or
- + Is arrested for, or convicted of, any crime involving child abuse and/or neglect, is charged with child sexual abuse in a civil proceeding; commits an act of child sexual abuse; or (except as otherwise prohibited or limited by applicable laws and regulations) is diagnosed with any paraphiliac psychological condition, as defined by the American Psychiatric Association, including, but not limited to, pedophilia, voyeurism or exhibitionism; or
- + Becomes aware that a member of his/her household has been arrested for, or convicted of, any crime involving child abuse and/or neglect; been charged with child sexual abuse in a civil proceeding; committed an act of child sexual abuse; or (except as otherwise prohibited or limited by applicable laws and regulations) been diagnosed with any paraphiliac psychological condition, as defined by the American Psychiatric Association, including, but not limited to, pedophilia, voyeurism or exhibitionism; or
- + Becomes aware that a person who is attending the church has been arrested for, or convicted of, any crime involving child abuse and/or neglect; has been charged with child sexual abuse in a civil proceeding; has committed an act of child sexual abuse; or (except as otherwise prohibited or limited by applicable laws and regulations) has been diagnosed with any paraphiliac psychological condition, as defined by the American Psychiatric Association, including, but not limited to, pedophilia, voyeurism or exhibitionism.

Such information is important to enable church leaders to see that appropriate child protection mechanisms are in place in accordance with this policy.

Home Group Procedures

Home groups are subject to the same policies as any other church function. It is easy for leaders of home groups to assume that the informality of home groups mean they can let their guard down in these gatherings. That is not the case. All participants should be attuned to the need to diligently protect children and youth in home settings as at any other event. Home groups that only have children or youth present sporadically need to be extra-vigilant that they do not relax the standards for protection of children. Special care should be given by the leaders of home groups to assure that:

If children or youth are supervised in a part of the house separate from all the adults in the group, the adults working with the children must be qualified by the congregation for this activity, fully trained, and fully screened. Youth, though seeming mature, should not be isolated from the adults without supervision by leaders approved for this task. Youth on youth abuse is always a risk in these environments, and as these events are church activities, all precautions used at any church activity apply particularly to these activities.

Among the unique aspects of supervising children in the home, the following are of particular concern:

- + Houses are not designed for the kind of visibility in rooms that are generally available in church facilities. Thus, caution needs to be exercised to make sure there are no closed doors, and two adults present.
- + Houses have unique safety concerns, and adult leaders should inspect any rooms used for supervising children to be sure that the rooms are safe in regard to electrical outlet coverings, sharp corners, sharp objects, access to the outdoors, toxic materials, and any other home risks.
- + Diapering and any restroom assistance should be done by the parents, not by the adults supervising the children.

Appendix A
Policy Acknowledgement Form

I certify that I have read the Diocesan Children and Family Manual.

I further certify that I will abide by the provisions of this policy as long as I am a serve in this ministry at this congregation or church plant.

Printed Name

Signature

Date



Appendix B

Arizona Child Abuse Reporting Details and Penal Codes

Who do I contact to report an incident in Arizona?

A peace officer, to the department of child safety or to a tribal law enforcement or social services agency for any Indian minor who resides on an Indian reservation, except if the report concerns a person who does not have care, custody or control of the minor, the report shall be made to a peace officer only. AZ Code §13-3620(A).

Department of Child Safety **1-888-SOS-CHILD (1-888-767-2445)**
<https://dcs.az.gov/report-child-abuse-or-neglect>

How much time do I have to report an incident?

Reports shall be made immediately either electronically or by telephone. The reports shall contain the following information, if known:

1. The names and addresses of the minor and the minor's parents or the person or persons having custody of the minor.
2. The minor's age and the nature and extent of the minor's abuse, child abuse, physical injury or neglect, including any evidence of previous abuse, child abuse, physical injury or neglect.
3. Any other information that the person believes might be helpful in establishing the cause of the abuse, child abuse, physical injury or neglect.

AZ Code §13-3620(D)

What is "child abuse" in Arizona?

"Abuse" means the infliction or allowing of physical injury, impairment of bodily function or disfigurement or the infliction of or allowing another person to cause serious emotional damage as evidenced by severe anxiety, depression, withdrawal or untoward aggressive behavior and which emotional damage is diagnosed by a medical doctor or psychologist and is caused by the acts or omissions of an individual who has the care, custody and control of a child. Abuse includes: inflicting or allowing sexual abuse pursuant to section 13-1404, sexual conduct with a minor pursuant to section 13-1405, sexual assault pursuant to section 13-1406, molestation of a child pursuant to section 13-1410, commercial sexual exploitation of a minor pursuant to section 13-3552, sexual exploitation of a minor pursuant to section 13-3553, incest pursuant to section 13-3608 or child prostitution pursuant to section 13-3212; physical injury that results from permitting a child to enter or remain in any structure or vehicle in which volatile, toxic or flammable chemicals are found or equipment is possessed by any person for the purpose of manufacturing a dangerous drug as defined in section 13-3401; and unreasonable confinement of a child. AZ Code §8-201(2)

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Who is a mandatory reporter in Arizona?

Any physician, physician's assistant, optometrist, dentist, osteopath, chiropractor, podiatrist, behavioral health professional, nurse, psychologist, counselor or social worker who develops the reasonable belief in the course of treating a patient. Any peace officer, child welfare investigator, child safety worker, member of the clergy, priest or Christian Science practitioner. The parent, stepparent or guardian of the minor.

School personnel or domestic violence victim advocates who develop the reasonable belief in the course of their employment. Any other person who has responsibility for the care or treatment of the minor. AZ Code §13-3620(A)(1-5)

Are Clergy mandatory reporters in Arizona?

Yes. AZ Code §13-3620(A)(2)

Is there an exception for penitential communication in Arizona?

Yes. Information received during the course of a confessional or during a confidential communication is not subject to mandatory reporting. AZ Code §13-3620(A).

If there is a penitential communication in Arizona, how do you define such a communication?

"A confidential communication or a confession in that person's role as a member of the clergy, as a Christian Science practitioner or as a priest in the course of the discipline enjoined by the church to which the member of the clergy, the Christian Science practitioner or the priest belongs may withhold reporting of the communication or confession if the member of the clergy, the Christian Science practitioner or the priest determines that it is reasonable and necessary within the concepts of the religion. This exemption applies only to the communication or confession and not to personal observations the member of the clergy, the Christian Science practitioner or the priest may otherwise make of the minor. AZ Code §13-3620(A)

Where can I find Arizona law on child abuse?

<https://www.azleg.gov/ars/13/03620.htm>

Appendix C

California Child Abuse Reporting Details and Penal Codes

Who do I contact to report an incident in California?

Local Police or Sherriff's department; county probation department; or a county welfare department.

How much time do I have to report an incident?

"The mandated reporter shall make an initial report by telephone to the agency immediately or as soon as is practicably possible, and shall prepare and send, fax, or electronically transmit a written follow up report within 36 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident."
Cal. Penal Code §11166(a)

What is "child abuse" in California?

"Child abuse or neglect" includes physical injury or death inflicted by other than accidental means upon a child by another person, sexual abuse as defined in Section 11165.1, neglect as defined in Section 11165.2, the willful harming or injuring of a child or the endangering of the person or health of a child, as defined in Section 11165.3, and unlawful corporal punishment or injury as defined in Section 11165.4. Cal. Penal Code §11165.6

Who is a mandatory reporter in California?

Mandatory reporters in California are: teachers; instructional aides; teacher's aide or teacher's assistant employed by a public or private school; a classified employee of a public school; an administrative officer or supervisor of child welfare and attendance, or a certificated pupil personnel employee of a public or private school; an administrator of a public or private day camp; an administrator or employee of a public or private youth center, youth recreation program, or youth organization; an administrator or employee of a public or private organization whose duties require direct contact and supervision of children; an employee of a county office of education or the State Department of Education whose duties bring the employee into contact with children on a regular basis; a licensee, an administrator, or an employee of a licensed community care or child day care facility; a Head Start program teacher; a licensing worker or licensing evaluator employed by a licensing agency, as defined in Section 11165.11; a public assistance worker; an employee of a child care institution, including, but not limited to, foster parents, group home personnel, and personnel of residential care facilities; a social worker, probation officer, or parole officer; an employee of a school district police or security department; a person who is an administrator or presenter of, or a counselor in, a child abuse prevention program in a public or private school; a district attorney investigator, inspector, or local child support agency caseworker, unless the investigator, inspector, or caseworker is working with an attorney appointed pursuant to Section 317 of the Welfare and Institutions Code to represent a minor; a peace officer; a firefighter, except for volunteer firefighters; a physician and surgeon, psychiatrist, psychologist, dentist, resident, intern, podiatrist, chiropractor, licensed nurse, dental hygienist, optometrist, marriage and family

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therapist, clinical social worker, professional clinical counselor, or any other person who is currently licensed under Division 2 (commencing with Section 500) of the Business and Professions Code; an emergency medical technician I or II, paramedic, or other person certified pursuant to Division 2.5 (commencing with Section 1797) of the Health and Safety Code; a psychological assistant registered pursuant to Section 2913 of the Business and Professions Code; a marriage and family therapist trainee, as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 4980.03 of the Business and Professions Code; an unlicensed marriage and family therapist intern registered under Section 4980.44 of the Business and Professions Code; a state or county public health employee who treats a minor for venereal disease or any other condition; a coroner; a medical examiner or other person who performs autopsies; a commercial film and photographic print or image processor; a child visitation monitor; an animal control officer or humane society officer; a clergy member; any custodian of records of a clergy member; an employee of any police department, county sheriff's department, county probation department, or county welfare department; an employee or volunteer of a Court Appointed Special Advocate program, as defined in Rule 5.655 of the California Rules of Court; a custodial officer; a person providing services to a minor child under Section 12300 or 12300.1 of the Welfare and Institutions Code; an alcohol and drug counselor; a clinical counselor trainee, as defined in subdivision (g) of Section 4999.12 of the Business and Professions Code; a clinical counselor intern registered under Section 4999.42 of the Business and Professions Code; an employee or administrator of a public or private postsecondary educational institution, whose duties bring the administrator or employee into contact with children on a regular basis, or who supervises those whose duties bring the administrator or employee into contact with children on a regular basis, as to child abuse or neglect occurring on that institution's premises or at an official activity of, or program conducted by, the institution; an athletic coach, athletic administrator, or athletic director employed by any public or private school that provides any combination of instruction for kindergarten, or grades 1 to 12, inclusive; and a commercial computer technician as specified in subdivision (e) of Section 11166; any athletic coach, including, but not limited to, an assistant coach or a graduate assistant involved in coaching, at public or private postsecondary educational institutions; an individual certified by a licensed foster family agency as a certified family home; and an individual approved as a resource family, as defined in Section 1517 of the Health and Safety Code. Cal. Penal Code §11165.7

Are Clergy mandatory reporters in California?

Yes. "Clergy member" means a priest, minister, rabbi, religious practitioner, or similar functionary of a church, temple, or recognized denomination or organization. Cal. Penal Code §11165.7(32)

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Is there an exception for penitential communication in California?

Yes. "A clergy member who acquires knowledge or a reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect during a penitential communication" is not required to report. Cal. Penal Code §11166(d)(1)

If there is a penitential communication in California, how do you define such a communication?

A "penitential communication" means "a communication, intended to be in confidence, including, but not limited to, a sacramental confession, made to a clergy member who, in the course of the discipline or practice of his or her church, denomination, or organization, is authorized or accustomed to hear those communications, and under the discipline, tenets, customs, or practices of his or her church, denomination, or organization, has a duty to keep those communications secret. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to modify or limit a clergy member's duty to report known or suspected child abuse or neglect when the clergy member is acting in some other capacity that would otherwise make the clergy member a mandated reporter." Cal. Penal Code §11166(d)(1)(a)

Where can I find California law on child abuse?

<https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml>



Appendix D

Idaho Child Abuse Reporting Details and Penal Codes

Who do I contact to report an incident in Idaho?

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

Phone: **1-855-552-KIDS (5437)**

Website: <http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Children/AbuseNeglect/tabid/74/Default.aspx>

How much time do I have to report an incident?

Idaho law requires a report to be made within 24 hours. Idaho Code §16-1605(1).

What is “child abuse” in Idaho?

Conduct or omission resulting in skin bruising, bleeding, malnutrition, burns, fracture of any bone, subdural hematoma, soft tissue swelling, failure to thrive or death, and such condition or death is not justifiably explained, or where the history given concerning such condition or death is at variance with the degree or type of such condition or death, or the circumstances indicate that such condition or death may not be the product of an accidental occurrence; or sexual conduct, including rape, molestation, incest, prostitution, obscene or pornographic photographing, filming or depiction for commercial purposes, or other similar forms of sexual exploitation harming or threatening the child’s health or welfare or mental injury to the child. Idaho Code §16-1602(1)

Who is a mandatory reporter in Idaho?

Any physician, resident on a hospital staff, intern, nurse, coroner, school teacher, day care personnel, social worker, or other person having reason to believe that a child under the age of eighteen (18) years has been abused, abandoned or neglected or who observes the child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which would reasonably result in abuse, abandonment or neglect Idaho Code §16-1605(1)

Are Clergy mandatory reporters in Idaho?

No. “Duly ordained ministers of religion” are not subject to the reporting requirement. Idaho Code §16-1605(3)

Is there an exception for penitential communication in Idaho?

Clergy are not required to report so long as the information was gained in a confession or confidential communication as part of the clergy’s ecclesiastical duties. Idaho Code §16-1605(3)

If there is a penitential communication in Idaho, how do you define such a communication?

“The confession or confidential communication was made in the manner and context which places the duly ordained minister of religion specifically and strictly under a level of confidentiality that is considered inviolate by canon law or church doctrine. A confession or

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confidential communication made under any other circumstances does not fall under this exemption.” Idaho Code §16-1605(3)(c)

Where can I find Idaho law on child abuse?

<https://legislature.idaho.gov/statutesrules/idstat/Title16/T16CH16/>



Appendix E

Montana Child Abuse Reporting Details and Penal Codes

Who do I contact to report an incident in Montana?

The department of public health and human services.

Phone: 1 (866) 820-5437

Website: <http://dphhs.mt.gov/CFSD>

How much time do I have to report an incident?

The law requires that reports be made "promptly," though it does not specify an exact timeframe in which the report must be made.

What is "child abuse" in Montana?

"Child abuse or neglect" means: actual physical or psychological harm to a child; substantial risk of physical or psychological harm to a child; or abandonment.

The term includes: actual physical or psychological harm to a child or substantial risk of physical or psychological harm to a child by the acts or omissions of a person responsible for the child's welfare; or exposing a child to the criminal distribution of dangerous drugs, as prohibited by §45-9-101, the criminal production or manufacture of dangerous drugs, as prohibited by §45-9-110, or the operation of an unlawful clandestine laboratory, as prohibited by §45-9-132. MCA §41-3-102(7)

Who is a mandatory reporter in Montana?

A physician, resident, intern, or member of a hospital's staff engaged in the admission, examination, care, or treatment of persons; a nurse, osteopath, chiropractor, podiatrist, medical examiner, coroner, dentist, optometrist, or any other health or mental health professional; religious healers; school teachers, other school officials, and employees who work during regular school hours; a social worker, operator or employee of any registered or licensed day-care or substitute care facility, staff of a resource and referral grant program organized under §52-2-711 or of a child and adult food care program, or an operator or employee of a child-care facility; a foster care, residential, or institutional worker; a peace officer or other law enforcement official; a member of the clergy, as defined in §15-6-201(2)(b); a guardian ad litem or a court-appointed advocate who is authorized to investigate a report of alleged abuse or neglect; or an employee of an entity that contracts with the department to provide direct services to children. MCA §41-3-201(2)

Are Clergy mandatory reporters in Montana?

Yes. Clergy are included in the definition of professionals and officials required to report. MCA §41-3-201(2).

Is there an exception for penitential communication in Montana?

Yes. "A member of the clergy or a priest is not required to make a report under this section if: the knowledge or suspicion of the abuse or neglect came from a statement or confession made to the member of the clergy or the priest in that person's capacity as a member of the clergy or as a priest; the statement was intended to be a part of a confidential communication between the member of the clergy or the priest and a member of the church or congregation; and the person who made the statement or confession does not consent to the disclosure by the member of the clergy or the priest. A member of the clergy or a priest is not required to make a report under this section if the communication is required to be confidential by canon law, church doctrine, or established church practice." MCA §41-3-201(6)(b).

If there is a penitential communication in Montana, how do you define such a communication?

"A statement or confession made to the member of the clergy or the priest in that person's capacity as a member of the clergy or as a priest" MCA §41-3-201(6)(b).

Where can I find Montana law on child abuse?

http://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca_toc/41_3_1.htm



Appendix F

Nevada Child Abuse Reporting Details and Penal Codes

Who do I contact to report an incident in Nevada?

The Division of Child and Family Services
Phone: 1-800-992-5757

How much time do I have to report an incident?

Reports should be made as soon as possible, but the law requires it be made within 24 hours.
NRS §432B.220(1)(b)

What is “child abuse” in Nevada?

Physical or mental injury of a non-accidental nature; Sexual abuse or sexual exploitation; or negligent treatment or maltreatment NRS §432B.020(1)

Who is a mandatory reporter in Nevada?

A person providing services licensed or certified in this State pursuant to, without limitation; any personnel of a medical facility licensed pursuant to [chapter 449](#) of NRS who are engaged in the admission, examination, care or treatment of persons or an administrator, manager or other person in charge of such a medical facility upon notification of suspected abuse or neglect of a child by a member of the staff of the medical facility; a coroner; a member of the clergy, practitioner of Christian Science or religious healer, unless the person has acquired the knowledge of the abuse or neglect from the offender during a confession; a person working in a school who is licensed or endorsed pursuant to [chapter 391](#) or [641B](#) of NRS; any person who maintains or is employed by a facility or establishment that provides care for children, children’s camp or other public or private facility, institution or agency furnishing care to a child; any person licensed pursuant to [chapter 424](#) of NRS to conduct a foster home; any officer or employee of a law enforcement agency or an adult or juvenile probation officer; except as otherwise provided in [NRS 432B.225](#), an attorney; any person who maintains, is employed by or serves as a volunteer for an agency or service which advises persons regarding abuse or neglect of a child and refers them to persons and agencies where their requests and needs can be met; any person who is employed by or serves as a volunteer for a youth shelter; any adult person who is employed by an entity that provides organized activities for children. NRS §432B.220(4)

Are Clergy mandatory reporters in Nevada?

Yes. NRS §432B.220(4)(d)

Is there an exception for penitential communication in Nevada?

Yes. Clergy are not required to report when the knowledge of abuse or neglect is acquired during a confession. NRS §432B.220(4)(d)

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If there is a penitential communication in Nevada, how do you define such a communication?

Nevada law only makes a penitential exception when the knowledge is acquired “from the offender during a confession.” NRS §432B.220(4)(d)

Where can I find Nevada law on child abuse?

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-432B.html#NRS432BSec220>



Appendix G

Utah Child Abuse Reporting Details and Penal Codes

Who do I contact to report an incident in Utah?

A peace officer, law enforcement agency, or offices of the Division of Child and Family Services

DCFS Phone: 1-855-323-DCFS (3237)

How much time do I have to report an incident?

Utah law requires the report to be made immediately.

What is “child abuse” in Utah?

Who is a mandatory reporter in Utah?

Are Clergy mandatory reporters in Utah?

Yes. Utah Code § 62A-4a-403(3)

If there is an exception for penitential communication in Utah?

Yes. When the clergyman receives a confession by the perpetrator in the course of the clergyman’s professional duties and is bound to confidentiality by canon law, church doctrine or practice, there is no requirement to report the information. Utah Code § 62A-4a-403(2). It should be noted that Utah law specifies that if the Clergyman receives such information by any other source than the perpetrator during a confession, the Clergyman is required to make a report. Utah Code § 62A-4a-403(3)(a)

If there is a penitential communication in Utah, how do you define such a communication?

Utah law defines penitential communication as “any confession made to the clergyman or priest in the professional character of the clergyman or priest in the course of discipline enjoined by the church to which the clergyman or priest belongs” Utah Code § 62A-4a-403(2)

Where can I find Utah law on child abuse?

<https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title62A/Chapter4A/62A-4a-P4.html>

Appendix H

Washington Child Abuse Reporting Details and Penal Codes

Who do I contact to report an incident in Washington?

Local police or the Department of Social and Health Services

Phone: 1-866-END-HARM (1-866-363-4276)

Website: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/child-safety-and-protection/how-report-child-abuse-or-neglect>

How much time do I have to report an incident?

"An immediate oral report must be made by telephone or otherwise to the proper law enforcement agency or the department of social and health services and, upon request, must be followed by a report in writing." RCW §26.44.040

What is "child abuse" in Washington?

"Abuse or neglect" means sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or injury of a child by any person under circumstances which cause harm to the child's health, welfare, or safety, excluding conduct permitted under RCW 9A.16.100; or the negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child by a person responsible for or providing care to the child. An abused child is a child who has been subjected to child abuse or neglect as defined in this section. RCW §26.44.020

Who is a mandatory reporter in Washington?

Any practitioner; county coroner or medical examiner; law enforcement officer; professional school personnel; registered or licensed nurse; social service counselor; psychologist; pharmacist; employee of the department of early learning; licensed or certified child care providers or their employees; employee of the department; juvenile probation officer; placement and liaison specialist; responsible living skills program staff; HOPE center staff; or state family and children's ombuds or any volunteer in the ombuds's office; or any person, in his or her official supervisory capacity with a nonprofit or for-profit organization when there is reasonable suspicion that child has suffered abuse or neglect caused by a person over whom he or she regularly exercises supervisory authority. RCW §26.44.030(1)(a)

Are Clergy mandatory reporters in Washington?

Yes. Clergy are included in "any person, in his or her official supervisory capacity with a nonprofit or for-profit organization when there is reasonable suspicion that child has suffered abuse or neglect caused by a person over whom he or she regularly exercises supervisory authority" RCW §26.44.30(1)(b)

Is there an exception for penitential communication in Washington?

Yes. "No one shall be required to report under this section when he or she obtains the information solely as a result of a privileged communication." RCW §26.44.030(1)(b)

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If there is a penitential communication in Washington, how do you define such a communication?

“A member of the clergy, a Christian Science practitioner listed in the Christian Science Journal, or a priest shall not, without the consent of a person making the confession or sacred confidence, be examined as to any confession or sacred confidence made to him or her in his or her professional character, in the course of discipline enjoined by the church to which he or she belongs.” RCW §5.60.060(3)

Where can I find Washington law on child abuse?

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=26.44>



Appendix I

Wyoming Child Abuse Reporting Details and Penal Codes

Who do I contact to report an incident in Wyoming?

The local child protective agency or local law enforcement agency

Website: <http://dfsweb.wyo.gov/social-services/child-protective-services>

How much time do I have to report an incident?

Reports are to be made immediately. W.S. §14-3-205(a)

What is “child abuse” in Wyoming?

"Abuse" means inflicting or causing physical or mental injury, harm or imminent danger to the physical or mental health or welfare of a child other than by accidental means, including abandonment, unless the abandonment is a relinquishment substantially in accordance with W.S. 14-11-101 through 14-11-109, excessive or unreasonable corporal punishment, malnutrition or substantial risk thereof by reason of intentional or unintentional neglect, and the commission or allowing the commission of a sexual offense against a child as defined by law. W.S. §14-3-202(a)(ii). "Neglect" means a failure or refusal by those responsible for the child's welfare to provide adequate care, maintenance, supervision, education or medical, surgical or any other care necessary for the child's well being. Treatment given in good faith by spiritual means alone, through prayer, by a duly accredited practitioner in accordance with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination is not child neglect for that reason alone. W.S. §14-3-202(a)(vii).

Who is a mandatory reporter in Wyoming?

Any person who knows or has reasonable cause to believe or suspect that a child has been abused or neglected or who observes any child being subjected to conditions or circumstances that would reasonably result in abuse or neglect. W.S. §14-3-205(a)

Are Clergy mandatory reporters in Wyoming?

Yes.

Is there an exception for penitential communication in Wyoming?

Yes. Confidential communications with clergy are excluded from mandatory reporting. W.S. §14-3-210(a)(ii).

If there is a penitential communication in Wyoming, how do you define such a communication?

Wyoming defines penitential communication as “a confession made to him in his professional character if enjoined by the church to which he belongs.” W.S. §1-12-101(a)(ii).

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Where can I find Wyoming law on child abuse?
<http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/wystatutes/>

