

In items (2) and (3) of this section, the words "suspected incident of abuse" are new language added for clarity.

Defined terms: "Abuse" § 5-901
"Child" § 5-901

5-903. REPORTING OF ABUSE -- BY HEALTH PRACTITIONERS, POLICE OFFICERS, EDUCATORS OR SOCIAL WORKERS.

(A) IN GENERAL.

NOTWITHSTANDING ANY LAW ON PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS, EACH HEALTH PRACTITIONER, POLICE OFFICER, EDUCATOR OR SOCIAL WORKER WHO CONTACTS, EXAMINES, ATTENDS, OR TREATS A CHILD AND WHO HAS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE CHILD HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO ABUSE SHALL:

(1) NOTIFY THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT OR THE APPROPRIATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY; AND

(2) IF ACTING AS A STAFF MEMBER OF A HOSPITAL, PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY, CHILD CARE INSTITUTION, JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER, SCHOOL, OR SIMILAR INSTITUTION, IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY AND GIVE ALL INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION TO THE HEAD OF THE INSTITUTION OR THE DESIGNEE OF THE HEAD.

(B) ORAL AND WRITTEN REPORTS.

(1) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO NOTIFIES THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL MAKE:

(I) AN ORAL REPORT, BY TELEPHONE OR DIRECT COMMUNICATION, TO THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT OR THE APPROPRIATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE; AND

(II) A WRITTEN REPORT TO THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT, WITH A COPY SENT TO THE LOCAL STATE'S ATTORNEY, NOT LATER THAN 48 HOURS AFTER THE CONTACT, EXAMINATION, ATTENTION, OR TREATMENT THAT CAUSED THE INDIVIDUAL TO BELIEVE THAT THE CHILD HAD BEEN SUBJECTED TO ABUSE.

(2) AN AGENCY TO WHICH AN ORAL REPORT IS MADE UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE OTHER AGENCY. HOWEVER, NOTHING SHALL PROHIBIT A LOCAL DEPARTMENT AND AN APPROPRIATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY FROM AGREEING TO COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

(C) CONTENTS OF REPORT.

INsofar AS IS REASONABLY POSSIBLE, AN INDIVIDUAL WHO MAKES A REPORT UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE IN THE REPORT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

(1) THE NAME, AGE, AND HOME ADDRESS OF THE CHILD;