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Alaska

Immunity for Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect

To better understand this issue and to view it across States, download the PDF (</pubpdfs/immunity.pdf>) (481 KB) of this publication.

Current Through March 2015

Citation: Alaska Stat. § 47.17.050

Except as provided below, a person who, in good faith, makes a report under the reporting laws, permits an interview, or participates in judicial proceedings related to submission of reports is immune from civil or criminal liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed for making the report or permitting the interview, except that a person who knowingly makes an untimely report is not immune from civil or criminal liability based on the delay in making the report.

A person accused of committing the child abuse or neglect is not immune from civil or criminal liability for the child abuse or neglect as a result of reporting the child abuse or neglect.

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Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect

To better understand this issue and to view it across States, download the PDF (</pubpdfs/manda.pdf>) (763 KB) of this publication.

Current Through August 2015

Professionals Required to Report

Citation: Alaska Stat. §§ 47.17.020; 47.17.023

The following persons are required to report:

- Health practitioners or administrative officers of institutions
- Teachers and school administrators, including athletic coaches, of public and private schools
- Child care providers
- Paid employees of domestic violence and sexual assault programs, crisis intervention and prevention programs, or organizations that provide counseling or treatment to individuals seeking to control their use of drugs or alcohol
- Peace officers or officers of the Department of Corrections

- Persons who process or produce visual or printed matter, either privately or commercially
- Members of a child fatality review team or the multidisciplinary child protection team
- Volunteers who interact with children in a public or private school for more than 4 hours a week

Reporting by Other Persons

Citation: Alaska Stat. § 47.17.020

Mandated reporters may report cases that come to their attention in their nonoccupational capacities. Any other person who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been harmed may report.

Institutional Responsibility to Report

Citation: Alaska Stat. § 47.17.020(g)

A person required to report child abuse or neglect who makes the report to the person's job supervisor or to another individual working for the entity that employs the person is not relieved of the obligation to make the report to the department as required by law.

Standards for Making a Report

Citation: Alaska Stat. §§ 47.17.020; 47.17.023

A report must be made when, in the performance of his or her occupational or appointed duties, a reporter has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has suffered harm as a result of abuse or neglect.

A person providing--either privately or commercially--film, photo, visual, printed matter processing, production, or finishing services; or computer installation, repair, or other services; or Internet or cellular telephone services; who in the process of providing those services observes a film, photo, picture, computer file, image, or other matter and has reasonable cause to suspect that the film, photo, picture, computer file, image, or other matter visually depicts a child engaged in conduct described in § 11.41.455(a) [sexual exploitation of a minor or child pornography], shall immediately report the observation to the nearest law enforcement agency.

Privileged Communications

Citation: Alaska Stat. § 47.17.060

Neither the physician-patient nor the husband-wife privilege is recognized.

Inclusion of Reporter's Name in Report

Not addressed in statutes reviewed.

Disclosure of Reporter Identity

Not addressed in statutes reviewed.

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Penalties for Failure to Report and False Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect

To better understand this issue and to view it across States, download the PDF (</pubpdfs/report.pdf>) (416 KB) of this publication.

Current Through August 2015

Failure to Report

Citation: Alaska Stat. § 47.17.068

A person who fails to comply with the laws requiring reports of child abuse or neglect or child pornography and who knew or should have known that the circumstances gave rise to the need for a report is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

False Reporting

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

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