

Coaches Become Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect

In 2013, Colorado Senate Bill 13-012 expanded the list of mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect to include private club coaches. Specifically, a director, coach, assistant coach, or athletic program personnel employed by a private sports organization or program are now required to report concerns.

Section 19-3-304 of the Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) outlines the persons required by law to report child abuse and/or neglect.

If a mandated reporter has:

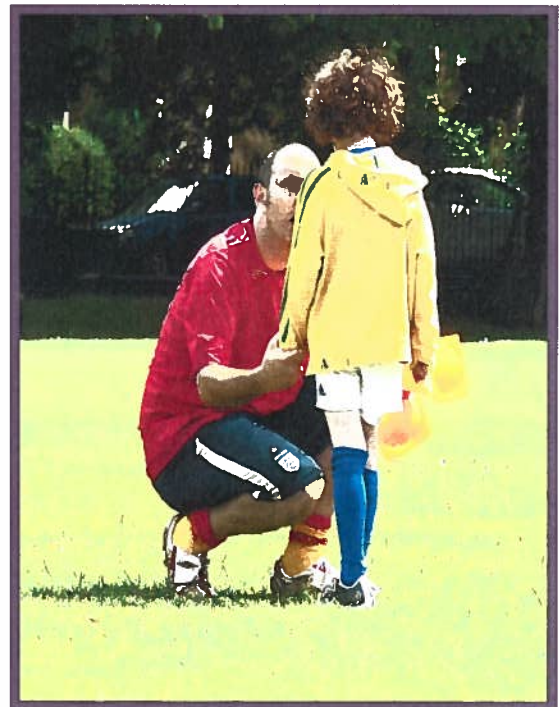
- reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect or
- observed the child being subjected to circumstances or conditions that would reasonably result in abuse or neglect,

the mandated reporter shall immediately upon receiving such information report or cause a report to be made of such fact to the county department, the local law enforcement agency, or through the child abuse reporting hotline system.

It is a class 3 misdemeanor in Colorado for a mandated reporter to fail to report suspected child abuse or neglect or knowingly makes a false report and is punishable under law.

**New Online Training for Mandatory Reporters
of Child Abuse and Neglect Available Today!**

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New Online Training for Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect

The Colorado Department of Human Services has created a web-based training for mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect. A general training is available for Colorado professionals, as well as four specialized trainings for Educators, First Responders, Health Care Providers, and Mental Health Professionals.

Mandatory Reporters of child abuse and neglect will learn to:

- Identify the indicators and behaviors associated with abuse and/or neglect including:
 - Physical abuse;
 - Sexual abuse;
 - Emotional abuse; and
 - Neglect.
- Comprehend the legal obligations of a Colorado Mandated Reporter, such as when and how to report suspected and/or known abuse and/or neglect.
- Understand the information a Colorado Mandated Reporter will likely be asked when reporting suspected and/or known abuse and/or neglect to child protective services and/or law enforcement.
- Identify groups of children and youth who may be at a higher risk for abuse and/or neglect and understand what it means to be a vulnerable child.
- Appreciate that there are a variety of ways a child may inform a Mandated Reporter that they are being abused and/or neglected and recognize the indicators when they are subtle and/or nonverbal.
- Demonstrate the ability to interact with a child when he/she discloses information to the Mandated Reporter using language that is simple, supportive, objective, and not probative.
- Exhibit a working understanding of the difference between reporting and investigating and appreciate the consequences associated with interviewing the child and/or conducting an investigation before making a report.
- Anyone who suspects child abuse and neglect in Colorado should immediately contact the local county human services department where the child/youth resides or call 911 if it is an emergency.

To find your local county human services phone number visit www.colorado.gov/CDHS



New Statewide Child Abuse Reporting Hotline Coming Soon Jan. 2015!