

Who is a mandated reporter in the state of Pennsylvania?

Any adult (18+) who routinely interacts or has direct contact with children in the course of his or her paid or unpaid role as an integral part of a regularly scheduled program, activity or service; or who supervises those who do.

A child is anyone under 18 years of age.



A mandated reporter has a legal obligation to report suspected child abuse. Failure to do so may result in criminal or civil charges.

Want to learn more?

Samaritan SafeChurch offers workshops, trainings and consultation.

Workshops include:

- ◆ Pennsylvania Mandated Reporter Training
 - ◆ Sexual Offenders and the Grooming Process
 - ◆ Children & Teens with Sexual Behavior Problems
- ◆ Making the Wounds Visible: Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse
- ◆ Accompaniment of Adult Survivors of Sexual Abuse

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Making the Call: Reporting Suspected Child Abuse in Pennsylvania

As a mandated reporter, when do I need to report?

You MUST file a report if:

You have 'reasonable cause' to suspect, a child discloses, or you learn from a third party that an identifiable child has been abused by anyone, anywhere.

OR a person 14 or older makes a disclosure to you that he or she has abused a child.

You are not to investigate to be certain abuse has occurred. A reasonable cause standard is one in which any other 'reasonable' person would have made the report.



This information is not legal advice, and should not be treated as such. If you have questions about any legal matter, you should consult your attorney or other legal professional.

How do I report in a church setting?

**Legal Obligations:
Follow this sequence!**

1.) IMMEDIATELY FILE A REPORT at

[www.compass.state.pa.us/
CWIS/Public/Home](http://www.compass.state.pa.us/CWIS/Public/Home)
the PA Department of Human Services Child Welfare Portal.

OR if online reporting is not an option, call ChildLine at

1-800-932-0313

2.) INFORM the person in charge. This person should be identified in your church's Child Protection Policy.

3.) If you chose to call ChildLine rather than make an on-line report: File a written report called a CY-47 with your local Child Protective Services agency within 48 hours of your report.

What if I am NOT a mandated reporter?

Keeping children safe from harm is every adult's responsibility. You don't have to be a mandated reporter to report suspected or disclosed abuse. While the online mandated reporting system is only used by mandated reporters, ANYONE can report suspected child abuse.

Simply call Childline at

1-800-932-0313

If you are not a mandated reporter, you are not required to file any paperwork, or inform anyone you have made the call.

ChildLine has a legal obligation to keep your name confidential.

