

Data Subcommittee Draft Recommendations

Directive 18: Analyze “the benefits of an electronic reporting platform for the state”

The Mandatory Reporting Task Force recommends creating an online reporting platform for child abuse and neglect. The development of an online reporting platform must consider the differences in staffing and resource levels across counties. The system must take this into account and ensure that all Coloradoans, and counties, have equal access to the electronic reporting platform. In implementing online reporting, the state must monitor for any impact on disproportionality at least annually.

Directive 16: Analyze “the personal information of a child, as set forth in section 19-3-307(2), that is collected for a report”

The Mandatory Reporting Task Force recommends the following:

- The task force recommends amending 19-3-307 to require all reports of suspected abuse or neglect to include, when available, additional characteristics about the child. These include ethnicity, language, gender expression, disability status, sexual orientation, national origin and income of the household.
- That the oral reporting requirement mentioned in 19-3-307 be removed.
 - The task force recommends that 19-3-307(1) be amended to read: “Reports of known or suspected child abuse or neglect made pursuant to this article shall be made immediately to the county department, the local law enforcement agency, or through the child abuse reporting hotline system as set forth in section 26-5-111, C.R.S., ~~and shall be followed promptly by a written report prepared by those persons required to report.~~ The county department shall submit a report of confirmed child abuse or neglect within sixty days of receipt of the report to the state department in a manner prescribed by the state department.” Additionally, 19-3-307(4) – which states that “A written report from persons or officials required by this part 3 to report known or suspected child abuse or neglect shall be admissible as evidence in any proceeding relating to child abuse, subject to the limitations of section 19-1-307” – shall be removed.
- That families be given the opportunity to confirm or correct the demographic information recorded in a report of child abuse and/or neglect.
- That the individuals entering information in Trails about a report of child abuse and/or neglect are required to ask reporters about any family strengths – such as parental involvement in school activities – as part of the reporting procedure.

Directive 19: Analyze “a process for inter- and intra-agency communications, confirming receipt of reports, and, in some circumstances, sharing the outcome of reports with certain mandatory reporters.”

The Mandatory Reporting Task Force recommends the following:

- The following should be created by _____ and provided to county departments of human services regarding inter and intra-agency communications:
 - Simplified explanations of confidentiality laws and regulations.
 - Standard, customizable templates for MOUs between law enforcement agencies and county departments of human services.
 - Examples of successful information-sharing practices from other counties.
 - Resources to train county staff on the legal and practical aspects of inter- and intra-agency information sharing.
- Individuals who have made a report of child abuse and/or neglect should receive a standardized letter that provides basic information about the referral’s disposition. This letter will look similar to what specified mandatory reporters currently receive, and may be generated by the same process in Trails. These letters should include the following information:
 - Whether the referral was accepted for further assessment or not.
 - If the referral was accepted, the assigned caseworker’s contact information.
 - General information on what happens next in the process.
 - If available, information about alternative resources and support services for families when the reported issue does not meet the criteria for child abuse or neglect.

Specialized Occupations Subcommittee Draft Recommendations

Directive 7: “Reporting time frames for mandatory reporters who are creating a safety plan for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking to ensure the safety of the victim and the victim’s family members while creating the plan.”

The Mandatory Reporting Task Force recommends amending statute to allow for extended reporting time frames for mandatory reporters who are creating a safety plan for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking to ensure the safety of the victim and the victim's family members while creating the safety plan. In these instances, mandatory reporters will be required to make a report within 72 hours.

Directive 10: “Whether a mandatory reporter who is employed by, an agent of, or a contractor for an attorney who is providing legal representation is exempt from the reporting requirements described in Section 19-3-304.”

The Mandatory Reporting Task Force recommends amending statute to clarify that mandatory reporters who are employed by, an agent of, or a contractor for an attorney who is providing legal representation are exempt from the reporting requirements described in Section 19-3-304?

Directive 11: “Mandatory reporting requirements for mandatory reporters who have knowledge or reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child or youth is the victim of dating violence or sexual assault.”

The Mandatory Reporting Task Force recommends:

- Amending statute to modify mandatory reporting requirements for mandatory reporters who have knowledge or reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child or youth is the victim of dating violence or sexual assault. In these instances, mandatory reporters will be required to make a report within 72 hours.
- Removing “victim's advocate as defined in section [13-90-107\(1\)\(k\)\(II\)](#), C.R.S.” from the list of professions required to act as mandatory reporters in [19-3-304](#).

Directive 8: Analyze “Medical child abuse and the process to report medical child abuse.”

The Mandatory Reporting Task Force addressed the process to report medical child abuse in its discussions of directives 13 and 14, which specifically require the task force to consider:

- Whether the duty to report remains with the mandatory reporter who has reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child has been subjected to child abuse or neglect.
- Whether institutions that employ mandatory reporters may develop procedures to assist mandatory reporters in fulfilling reporting requirements.

As it relates to further analyzing medical child abuse, the task force determined that it is beyond the scope of the task force’s charge.