

Mandatory Reporting Task Force

Reporting Processes

Reporting Time Frames

[Directive VI](#) charges the task force with analyzing “the definition of ‘immediately’ and how reporting time frames affect mandatory reporters from different professions”.

The Mandatory Reporting Task Force recommends clarifying state law regarding the timeliness of when a report must be made. The task force recommends the following amendments by made to C.R.S. 19-3-304(1)(a), with new text presented in blue font and deleted text presented in strikethrough:

“...any person specified in subsection (2) of this section who has reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect or who has observed the child being subjected to circumstances or conditions that would reasonably result in abuse or neglect shall, ~~immediately~~ upon receiving such information, **make a report as soon as reasonably possible, but not to exceed 24 hours after receiving the information...**”

Joint Reporting

[Directive XIII](#) charges the task force with analyzing “A reporting process for two or more mandatory reporters to report child abuse or neglect who have joint knowledge or joint reasonable cause to make a report of child abuse or neglect”.

The Mandatory Reporting Task Force recommends clarifying state law regarding the processes for when two or more mandatory reporters have joint knowledge of suspected child abuse or neglect. The task force recommends the following be addressed in statute:

- The highlighted text from C.R.S. 19-3-304(1)(a) should be amended or removed with the intention of reducing duplicative reports that may detrimentally impact the child or family:
 - "... any person specified in subsection (2) of this section who has reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect or who has observed the child being subjected to circumstances or conditions that would reasonably result in abuse or neglect shall immediately upon receiving such information report **or cause a report to be made of** such fact..."

- The creation of a requirement that county departments provide mandatory reporters with duplicative knowledge of a case with verification that the information has previously been reported and a reference number for the correlating case.
- The creation of a standard process for human services and law enforcement to utilize when sharing information and contacts collected from multiple mandatory reporters concerning the same concern of abuse or neglect.

Professional Capacity

[Directive IX](#) charges the task force with analyzing “whether mandatory reporters should report incidents observed outside of a mandatory reporter's professional capacity”.

The Mandatory Reporting Task Force recommends clarifying state law to specify that a mandatory reporter’s duty to make a report of suspected abuse or neglect does not extend beyond the mandatory reporter’s professional capacity. In making this clarification, potential expansion of Good Samaritan protections should be considered.

Delegation

[Directive XIII](#) charges the task force with analyzing “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”.

The Mandatory Reporting Task Force recommends clarifying state law to specify that a mandatory reporter may not delegate their individual duty to make a report to another person.

Internal Protocols

[Directive XIV](#) charges the task force with analyzing “whether institutions that employ mandatory reporters may develop procedures to assist mandatory reporters in fulfilling reporting requirements, as described in section 19-3-307”.

The Mandatory Reporting Task Force recommends clarifying state law to specify that institutions that employ mandatory reporters -- such as schools and hospitals -- may develop internal protocols regarding processes for making a report of suspected abuse or neglect. Such internal protocols must comply with state law and regulations and contain language confirming the following:

- Leadership, administration and supervisors may not deter or impede an individual mandatory reporter with concerns of abuse or neglect from making a report.
- Mandatory reporters may not delegate their duty to report to a supervisor, colleague or another individual within the institution.