

Child Protective Services: Intake

2103.5 Mandated Reporters

Inform reporters, mandated by law (O.C.G.A. 19-7-5), of their responsibility to report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect and that, in making a report regarding child abuse or neglect, they are immune from any civil or criminal liability that otherwise might be imposed, provided the report is made in good faith (an honest belief that a child's health/welfare may be in jeopardy).

As soon as possible after the report is taken, mail a written acknowledgment, over the county director's or designee's signature, to mandated reporters. (See Section X for sample letter).

Procedure/Practice Issues

Mandated reporters in Georgia include:

- Physicians licensed to practice medicine, interns or residents;
- Hospital or medical personnel;
- Dentists;
- Licensed psychologists and persons participating in internships to obtain licensing pursuant to Chapter 39 of Title 43 (O.C.G.A.);
- Podiatrists;
- Registered professional nurses or licensed practical nurses licensed pursuant to Chapter 24 of Title 43 (O.C.G.A.);
- Professional counselors, social workers or marriage and family therapists licensed pursuant to Chapter 10A of Title 43 (O.C.G.A.);
- School teachers;
- School administrators;
- School guidance counselors, visiting teachers, school social workers or school psychologists certified pursuant to Chapter 2 of Title 20 (O.C.G.A.);
- Child welfare agency personnel, as that agency is defined pursuant to O.C.G.A. 49-5-12. Child welfare agency means any child-caring institution, child-placing agency, maternity home, family boarding home, family day-care home and day care center;
- Child counseling personnel;
- Child service organization personnel; and

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- Law enforcement personnel.

Mandated reporters are important throughout the life of the case. Mandated reporters (e.g. teachers, medical personnel), who are in an ongoing relationship with a child or following their medical needs, have information concerning a child that is vital to case decision making (See [2104.21](#)).

A report from a mandated referral source who has made the same report on the same child at least three times and each report was unsubstantiated will, upon a fourth report (same reporter making the same report on the same child) be discussed with the Field Program Specialist to determine whether to open for further (assessment (investigation)).

Document any decision not to accept a referral for an initial assessment (investigation). (See [Documentation Chapter 80.6](#)).

If many reports are coming from mandated reporters on situations that are ordinarily considered for screen out (see [2103.18](#)), consider:

- Holding community forums to discuss the issue.
- Discussing, at the local protocol committee, better ways to route reports that do not meet the criteria for a CPS (assessment (investigation)).

Specify in the acknowledgment to mandated reporters receipt of the report, and thank the reporter for complying with the reporting law. File a copy of this correspondence in the case record.