



4760.1 Child Abuse Reporting

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Any person (teacher, staff member, coach, tutor or activity coordinator) who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is neglected or abused or observes the child being subjected to conditions that are likely to result in abuse or neglect, such person shall immediately, and not more than forty-eight hours after suspecting this abuse, report the circumstances or cause a report to be made to the Department of Health and Human Resources: *Provided*, That in any case where the reporter believes that the child suffered serious physical abuse or sexual abuse or sexual assault, the reporter shall also immediately report, or cause a report to be made, to the State Police and any law-enforcement agency having jurisdiction to investigate the complaint: *Provided, however*, That any person required to report under this article who is a member of the staff of a public or private institution, school, facility or agency shall immediately notify the person in charge of such institution, school, facility or agency, or a designated agent thereof, who shall report or cause a report to be made. However, nothing in this article is intended to prevent individuals from reporting on their own behalf. (W.VA Code 49-6A-2)

A "child" is defined as any person less than eighteen (18) years of age.

Any person acting in good faith under this law is immune from civil and criminal liability for making this report.

In the event that a report is made, the reporter must also notify the Pastor/Designated Pastor and the Superintendent of Catholic Schools.