

Number
#24-68-19

Date
October 23, 2024

Of interest to
County Directors
Social Services Supervisors and
Staff County Directors
Social Services Supervisors and
Staff

County attorneys Tribal
Directors Tribal Social Services
Supervisors and Staff Tribal
attorneys

Action/due date
Please read information and
prepare for implementation

Expiration date
October 23, 2026

Resource Guide for Mandated Reporters of Child Maltreatment Concerns Update

Topic

Update of practice guide: Resource Guide for Mandated Reporters of Child Maltreatment Concerns.

Purpose

Announce publication of updated practice guide: Resource Guide for Mandated Reporters of Child Maltreatment Concerns.

Contact

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Child Safety and Family Preservation Unit

Signed



Rebecca St. George
Assistant Commissioner, Child Safety and Permanency

Terminology notice

The terminology used to describe people we serve has changed over time. The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) supports the use of "People First" language.

I. Practice Guide Updated

The Minnesota Resource Guide for Mandated Reporters of Child Maltreatment Concerns has been updated to reflect legislative and training changes.

A. Minnesota's Resource Guide for Mandated Reporters of Child Maltreatment Concerns

[Minnesota's Resource Guide for Mandated Reporters of Child Maltreatment Concerns \(DHS-2917\)](#) has been updated, as follows:

1. Added new legislative language regarding reporting (page 6)

Mandated reporting provisions were amended to clearly prohibit corporations, schools, nonprofit organizations, religious organizations, facilities who meet the definition of facility under Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 260E and other similar entities from having policies that prevent or discourage mandatory or voluntary reports of child abuse and neglect. A misdemeanor penalty was also established for individuals who intentionally prevent (or attempt to prevent) a mandated report of child maltreatment. (Laws of Minnesota 2024, chapter 123, article 4, sections 6-7.)

2. Added Practice Pointers throughout document

Added practice pointer for mandated reporters

3. Added additional language in Bias/Supporting Families (Pages 8-9)

Mandated reporters have a role in contributing toward child welfare outcomes. Given the disparities in Minnesota's child welfare system, there is an obligation to consider mandated reporters' roles in contributing to outcomes that are more equitable

4. Added language regarding poverty under neglect (page 14)

There are times when conditions of poverty can create circumstances perceived as neglect, with parents unable to provide care for their child/ren due to lack of adequate financial resources. It is important to understand that conditions of poverty can present differently depending on cultural practices and geographic areas. Under these circumstances, local child welfare agencies will work to assist parents in providing necessary care for children, and not define parental behavior as neglectful.

5. Safe Place for Newborns Legislative Update (Page 15)

Birth record registration provisions were amended to allow an individual who gives birth in a hospital to utilize Safe Place for Newborns provisions to anonymously relinquish their newborn in that same hospital. Previously, birth record registration requirements prohibited hospitals from accepting anonymous relinquishments under Safe Place for Newborns when the birth and relinquishment were in the same hospital. (Laws of Minnesota 2024, chapter 127, article 59, sections 22-26.)

6. Added Noncaregiver trafficking assessment response (page 24)

The noncaregiver trafficking assessment is designed to focus on safety, prevent ongoing abuse, provide access to needed services and supports, and coordinate with relevant law enforcement investigations of the sex trafficking allegation.

7. Updated Mandated Reporter Cheat Sheet

Updated and clarified language in the mandated reporter cheat sheet/PASS tool. (Page 10 and Appendix A)

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Advisory

This information is available in accessible formats for people with disabilities by calling (651) 431-4660 (voice). For other information on disability rights and protections, contact the agency's ADA coordinator.