

Mandated Reporters

- ACT 60: Individual who is employed by a school district or an approved or recognized independent to provide student services, including any school superintendent, school principal, headmaster of an approved or recognized independent school, school teacher, student teacher, school librarian, and school guidance counselor.

In other words – likely YOU.

Reporting Child Abuse

When in doubt report

Act 60 New reporting standard:

Any mandated reporter who reasonably suspects abuse or neglect of a child shall report within 24 hours of the time information regarding the suspected abuse or neglect was first received or observed (33 VSA 4913 (C)).

Mandated Report webpage: mandatedreporters.vt.gov

CHANGES AS OF JULY 1 2015

- MUST report when “reasonably suspects” abuse and neglect.
- The individual who suspects abuse or neglect MUST report directly; it is no longer sufficient to “cause a report to be made”
- A report must be made within 24 hours of the time the information was first observed or received. Calling law enforcement is not making a report.
- Each mandated reporter is responsible for making a report on time and is liable if one is not made. No one, including supervisors, may prevent a mandated reported from making a report with the required timeframe

LIABILITY

- A person who files a report in good faith has immunity from any criminal or civil liability
- Failure to report can result in criminal prosecution and a fine of up to \$500
- If the failure to report was with intent to conceal the abuse or neglect, the penalty increases to up to six months in prison and a fine of up to \$1000

Group Reporting

- If more than one individual within an organization needs to make a report about the same incident, it is recommended you report together by phone or in writing (24 hour timeline still applies)

Everyone needs to be in the room when call is made– all names need to be given to intake
OR one person can write the report and everyone sign it

WHEN IN DOUBT

- Call for advice if not sure a report is warranted or if you are considering telling the parent a report was made
- To Report call 1-800-649-5285 or fax a written report to (802) 241-3301– 24 hours a day, 7 days a week