

Mandated Reporters under the Illinois Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act

All employees must comply with the Illinois Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (Public Act 97-0711). This Act requires all personnel of institutions of higher education to immediately report suspected child abuse or neglect.

Accordingly, all individuals employed by Columbia College Chicago have a legal obligation to immediately report or cause a report to be made to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) if they have "reasonable cause to believe a child known to them in their professional or official capacity may be an abused child or a neglected child."

Child abuse and neglect reports are made by calling the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) Hotline at 1.800.252.2873 or 1.800.25-ABUSE. Personnel making a report should notify their supervisor and/or Human Resources.

Mandated reporters receive a letter informing them of the finding in cases they reported. The only information that a reporter will receive will be the finding — indicated or unfounded. Other information, about the case (e.g. removing the children from the family) will not be included in that letter, but mandated reporters can receive information on actions taken to ensure the child's safety by contacting the DCFS child protection supervisor responsible for the investigation (325 ILCS 5/11.2). Also, under new provisions in 325 ILCS 5/8.6, final finding reports on indicated investigations of a child's physical or sexual abuse will be forwarded to the child's public school, if any, and maintained as "confidential" information in the child's student record.

Below you will find additional information and resources.

DCFS offers an online training course to help Illinois Mandated Reporters understand their critical role in recognizing and reporting child abuse. You are encouraged to complete the [DCFS Mandated Reporter Training](https://mr.dcfstraining.org/UserAuth/Login%21loginPage.action) (<https://mr.dcfstraining.org/UserAuth/Login%21loginPage.action>). For additional information, please visit the [DCFS Website](http://www.illinois.gov/dcf/) at <http://www.illinois.gov/dcf/>.

Approved: March 1, 2013