



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Effective July 1, 2012: Changes to the Child Abuse and Neglect Mandated Reporting Law [§ 63.2-1509](#),

Timeframe to Report:

- Mandated reporters are required to report as soon as possible, but no later than **24 hours** after having a suspicion of a reportable offense. The Department's toll-free child abuse and neglect hotline is **1-800-552-7096**.

Additional Responsibilities:

- Mandatory reporters are not required to make a report if they have actual knowledge that the same matter has already been reported to Child Protective Services (CPS).
- Persons who are designated to receive reports from mandated reporters in hospitals or schools must notify the teacher, staff member, resident, intern or nurse who made the initial report when the report is made to Child Protective Services, who received the report, and any communication resulting from the report.

Increased Penalties:

- A second failure to report will result in a fine of not less than \$1,000;
- In cases of rape, sodomy, or object sexual penetration, a person who fails to make the required report shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

Substance Exposed Infants:

Circumstances requiring a report to be made to CPS for a substance exposed infant include:

- Results of toxicology studies done within 6 weeks of birth indicating the presence of a controlled substance not prescribed for the mother ;
- Child born demonstrating withdrawal symptoms from a controlled substance not prescribed for the mother.
- Child diagnosed with an illness, disease or condition attributable to in utero exposure to a controlled substance not prescribed for the mother or the child;
- Child diagnosed with a fetal alcohol spectrum disorder.

Training and other mandated reporter resources available at: <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/cps/index2.cgi>