



Children's Justice & Advocacy Report

To promote community responsibility so every Pennsylvania child is protected from child abuse, including sexual abuse.

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Toomey push for school background checks holds up Child Care and Development Block Grant reauthorization

In 1996, as part of federal welfare reform (the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act – PWORA), Congress eliminated the entitlement for child care assistance for parents receiving public benefits or transitioning from welfare-to-work.

Since that time, federal funding for child care assistance had both a mandatory federal funding stream and a discretionary funding stream. The discretionary funding is subject to the annual appropriations process. The discretionary program is known as the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG).

Last week, bipartisan leaders in the U.S. House and Senate reached agreement on a 6-year reauthorization of the CCDBG. Enactment of [S. 1086](#) would represent the

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Mandated reporting duties to extend beyond the work place or formal volunteer setting

For decades, Pennsylvania law has recognized that certain individuals by the nature of their profession, training and direct work experience with children had to be on the lookout for child abuse and report it to authorities.

Mandated reporters have a legal duty to call ChildLine – PA's child abuse reporting hotline - and

make a report when they have reasonable cause to suspect a child is a victim of child abuse.

Pennsylvania law now includes a specific list of adults, who have this legal duty (see [Who's a mandated reporter](#) outlining the 14 categories of mandated reporters).

Recent law changes will also extend legal obligations for reporting suspected child abuse to individuals serving as volunteers (see [Who's a mandated reporter?](#)).

The mandated reporter, who has reasonable cause to suspect a child is a victim of child abuse, has to report under **any** of the following situations:

1. The mandated reporter comes into contact

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National Child Protection Training Act introduced

Federal legislation creating 4 regional child protection training centers "affiliated with institutions of higher education" has been introduced in the U.S. Senate (S. 1722) and House.

The United States Attorney General, through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) would have to work "in coordination" with the National Child Protection Training Center. The NCPTC was created in 2003 by [Victor Vieth](#). NCPTC, which created the [Child First forensic interviewing protocol](#), works "to end

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PA House gives final approval to renaming the Department of Public Welfare

Earlier today, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives gave final approval to [House Bill 993](#), which will rename the state's Department of Public Welfare (DPW) the Department of Human Services (DHS). The final vote on the legislation before heading to Governor Corbett's desk was [155 to 35](#).

The legislation, which has strong support across the political landscape and advocacy communities,

was amended this summer by the PA Senate to require the creation of a DHS fraud tip line. DPW

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Standing against truancy leading to the incarceration of "moms and grandmothers"

Earlier this year, a 54-year-old Berks County mother, who was a widow caring for seven children, died in the county jail. She had been incarcerated when she could not pay thousands of dollars in truancy-related fines.

Berks County Representative Tom Caltagirone became visibly upset this week as he asked his colleagues on the House Judiciary Committee to support House Resolution 976. The resolution urges the PA Supreme Court to examine the issue of incarcerating parents for unpaid truancy-related

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PA House Children & Youth Committee readies amendment to further information sharing between medical professionals and CYS

Next week the PA House Children and Youth Committee will attempt to advance Senate Bill 27 – one of the few original child protection reform bills introduced in 2013 that have yet to reach the Governor's desk.

Senate Bill 27 (Senator Robert Mensch) seeks to elevate the exchange of information between licensed medical practitioners and children and youth services. The legislation requires a licensed medical practitioner as part of a "case of suspected child abuse" to provide a variety of information including:

- Relevant medical information...regarding the child's prior and current health;
- Information from a subsequent examination;

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Who is a mandated reporter in PA?

Pennsylvania law includes a specific list of adults, who have a legal responsibility to report suspected child abuse to ChildLine – the state’s child abuse reporting hotline. The following 14 categories of adults are mandated reporters:

1. A person licensed or certified to practice in any health-related field under the jurisdiction of the Department of State

NOTE: The Department of State licenses professionals through the following health-related boards:

- *Chiropractic*
- *Dentistry*
- *Massage Therapy*
- *Medicine*
- *Nursing*
- *Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators*
- *Occupational Therapy*
- *Optometry*
- *Osteopathic Medicine*
- *Pharmacy*
- *Physical Therapy*
- *Podiatry*
- *Psychology*
- *Speech-Language and Hearing Examiners*
- *Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors*

2. A medical examiner, coroner or funeral director

3. An employee of a health care facility or provider licensed by the Department of Health, who is engaged in the admission, examination, care or treatment of individuals

4. A school employee, which is a person employed by a school or a person providing a program, activity, or service sponsored by a school. Excluded from this definition is a

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