



NATIONAL LINK COALITION

*Working together to stop violence
against people and animals*

Mandated Reporting of Animal Cruelty by Therapists

(As of: Sept. 2024)

The following states are believed to mandate or permit therapists or other mental health professionals to report suspected acts of animal cruelty committed or witnessed by a patient or client, without fear of violating client confidentiality laws:

California: Therapists not specifically named, but if employed by county child or adult protective services agency they are MANDATED. (Cal. Penal Code Art. 5 §11199)

Connecticut: Not specifically named, but if employed by Department of Children & Families they are MANDATED. (C.G.S.A. §17a-100a.)

District of Columbia: Not specifically named, but if employed by child or protective services they are MANDATED. (D.C. Code §22-1002.01)

Florida: Not specifically named, but “Any person who is required to investigate child abuse, abandonment, or neglect under this chapter while acting in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of employment” is MANDATED. (Fl. Stat. Title V §39.208)

Illinois: Not specifically named, but if an Investigation Specialist, Intact Family Specialist, and Placement Specialist employed by the Department of Children and Family Services is MANDATED. (325 ILCS 5/11.8)

Indiana: Not specifically named, but if part of an adult protective services unit, they are PERMITTED. (IC §12-10-3-8.5)

Louisiana: Not specifically named, but any employee of government or of a government contractor who in his professional capacity routinely investigates alleged abuse or neglect or sexual abuse of a child, or abuse or neglect of an adult, is MANDATED. (R.S. §403.6)

Maine: An employee of a state-funded child or adult protective services agency or other social service agency, including those providing mental health services that are funded or licensed by the department, is PERMITTED to report. (MRS Title 34-B §1901)

Massachusetts: Not specifically named, but if employee of DCF or APS is PERMITTED to report. ([M.G.L.A. Title XVII, Ch. 119, Sec. 85 and M.G.L.A. Title II, Chap. 19A, Sec. 42](#))

Nebraska: Not specifically named, but any employee of a governmental agency dealing with child or adult protective services, while acting in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment, is MANDATED to report. (Neb. Rev. St. § 28-1017)

Nevada: Not specifically named, but any person who knows or has reasonable cause to believe that an animal has been subjected to an act of cruelty is PERMITTED to report. (N.R.S. 574.053)

Ohio: CPS, APS, Social Workers, Licensed Professional Counselors, Marriage & Family Therapists, and Art & Music Therapists are MANDATED to report animal abuse. (ORC § 959.07 and ORC § 4757.01)

Oregon: “Public or private officials” – defined as psychologists, regulated social workers, and employees of the Department of Human Services, Oregon Health Authority, Early Learning Division, Youth Development Division, Office of Child Care, the Oregon Youth Authority, a local health department, a community mental health program, a community developmental disabilities program, a county juvenile department, a child-caring agency or an alcohol and drug treatment program, are PERMITTED to report. (O.R.S. § 609.652, O.R.S. § 609.654, and O.R.S. § 609.656)

Tennessee: Not specifically named, but if a state, county or municipal employee of a child or adult protective services agency, is MANDATED to report. (TCA § 38-1-402)

West Virginia: Not specifically named, but if a Child Protective Service worker or an Adult Protective Service worker, is MANDATED to report. (WV Code § 49-2-806 and WV Code § 9-6-9a)